Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you think a mass protest would help expedite solutions to the current power crisis on the island?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Search Suspended

Philippine officials suspends retrieval of hundreds of bodies believed trapped inside a sunken ferry.

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Summer Plans

While most teens spend their summer just hanging out at the beach, many students are also involved in summer internships.

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Ledger Tribute

Heath Ledger is getting a fond tribute from his collaborators on "The Dark Knight."

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Tourist found floating died of heart attack. PAGE 3

Judiciary to House: Hands off!

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan has slammed a proposal to change the process for selecting the presiding officers of the Judiciary.

Demapan said the proposed constitutional amendment should not originate from the House of Representatives, as the legislative body does not currently have a hand in appointing or confirming the chief justice of the Supreme Court and presiding judge of the Superior Court.

Demapan

Sponsored by Rep. Ray N. Yumul, the legislative initiative proposes to have the judicial officers elected by their peers.

Currently, the chief justice and the presiding judge are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. No

See JUDICIARY on Page 4

FORBIDDEN TREK JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Two female tourists enjoy the magnificent rock formations and waters of the Forbidden Island in Kagman. The sanctuary is located at the southeastern part of the island within the Kagman Wildlife Conservation Area, and famous for its majestic scenic view and adventure eco-tourism hiking.

AP

A tip is left by a customer at Linda's Place Restaurant in St. Clair Shores, Mich., Thursday, June 19, 2008.

A tip to count on: Gratuities are down

CINCINNATI (AP)—At the Corner Pub on Cincinnati's west side, bartender Melissa Metz can count the cost of the economic hangover in the stack of bills she has at the end of a shift.

Those tips make up the majority of her income, but they've been dwindling for months amid rising gas prices and other economic woes. Right now, her weekly income from tips is down about 25 percent.

"Some people are coming in less and maybe not staying as long when they do come in," Metz said. "And normal customers who would normally tip $5 are tipping about $2 now."

Bartenders, waiters, hair stylists, cab drivers, and other workers who depend on tips for much of their income are

See A TIP on Page 4

Muna ready to leave CUC at anytime

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"I don't plan to be in this job permanently."

Thus stated Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s executive director Antonio Muna in response to some sectors' call for his replacement.

Muna

Muna told *Saipan Tribune* that as long as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial needs his services, he would stay as CUC executive director.

"When the time comes that I need to go, I'm ready to go," he stressed.

Muna said it is the governor's particu-

See MUNA on Page 4

Local

AFTERNOON HIKE JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A tourist hikes on a trail at the popular Forbidden Island Sanctuary yesterday afternoon. Located at the southeastern part of the island, the sanctuary was created in 2000 with the enactment of Public Law 12-46 for the conservation of wildlife and marine life on the island.

'House sitting on Senate bills'

Senate President Pete P. Reyes has complained that the House of Representatives is sitting on bills submitted by Upper House for its action.

Reyes introduced a resolution yesterday asking the House of Representatives to "do the Senate…the courtesy of acting on bills originating from the Senate."

Reyes

He said the House of Representatives has entertained exactly two Senate bills since the 16th Legislature took office in January 2008.

"While the Senate has diligently considered many bills originating from the House of Representatives, be they appropriations, revenue bills or otherwise, it appears the House of Representatives has not deigned to reciprocate," Reyes said.

But House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios said Reyes had no reason to complain. While it is true that the House has considered only two Senate bills, it does not indicate inaction by the House, as only six Senate bills are currently awaiting its approval.

"Two out of six bills is not that bad. We're at 30 percent. Do you know how many House bills are with the Senate? Twenty-six," Palacios said.

One of the Senate bills currently with the House is Reyes' proposal to forbear scholarship payments for returning students who cannot find jobs in the Commonwealth either because the government is not hiring or because a private sector they have applied for is filled by a foreign national worker.

Palacios said the bill is now ready for a vote on the House floor. The House adopted the committee report earlier this week.

Bills introduced in either house of the Legislature must be approved by both houses before they can be sent to the governor for his signature. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC ITB 08-011

AMENDMENT #01

This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX GRANDSTAND PATHWAY**, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Seventy Five Dollars ($75.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $4.05 per hour which took effect on May 25, 2008, as established by Federal law or the U. S. Department of Labor General Decision No. CM2008-0001, whichever is greater.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on **Wednesday, July 2, 2008**, at the proposed project site located near the Ada Gym in Susupe, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director of the NMHC, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, June 26, 2008.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-ITB08-011**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time **Thursday, July 10, 2008**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Thursday, July 10, 2008**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to HYPERLINK "mailto:procurement@pticom.com" \o "blocked::mailto:procurement@pticom.com" procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 10, 2008**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **July 21, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m**., local time, **July 22, 2008**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on **July 10, 2008**.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Bid bonds must be certified by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is thirty (30) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US$500.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

Marcie M. Tomokane
Acting Chairwoman & Contracting Officer, Procurement & Supply

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC IFB 08-012

This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **CONSTRUCTION OF THE TINIAN AMPHITHEATER CONCRETE BLEACHER/ELECTRICAL CONTROL ROOM AND STORAGE**, in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $4.05 per hour which took effect on May 25, 2008, as established by Federal law or the U. S. Department of Labor General Decision No. CM2008-0001, whichever is greater.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m**. on **Monday, June 30, 2008**, at the project site of the Tinian Amphitheater that is currently under construction in San Jose, Tinian, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director of the NMHC, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, July 1, 2008.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-ITB08-012**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time **Monday, July 07, 2008**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted.Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Monday, July 07, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 07, 2008**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **July 16, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m.**, local time, **July 17, 2008**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on July 07, 2008.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Bid bonds must be certified by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US$500.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

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All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

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Herman S. Sablan
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

LISS gives back $60K in June

Ladera International School of Saipan closed its first summer session with nearly a hundred students from first to 10th grade availing of free classes in math, science, and English.

LISS director Wayne Pangelinan said the summer session participants included 71 local children and 17 dormitory students from Korea.

The children from the local community were able to enjoy approximately $60,000 worth of free education at LISS, said Pangelinan. "These kids were not charged any tuition, as if in full scholarship with the school," he said. "This is a way for LISS to give back to the community."

On July 3, LISS will hold its science camp display, poet competition, and performances of local cultural dance groups. From 9am to 2pm, activities, food and drinks will be available for everyone's enjoyment.

"We invite the public to come and see what LISS offers to the community. Ranging from the academic aspects of competition to pure family enjoyment, this day will also celebrate the closing of our first session summer program and awards and certificates will be presented to our outgoing students," Pangelinan said. ***(LISS)***

'Tourist found floating died of heart attack'

The Japanese male tourist who was found motionless on top of a beach mat that was floating at a beachside in San Antonio died not from drowning but from a heart attack.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that police learned after further investigation that Toshitsugi Tanoue died of a cardiopulmonary arrest.

Ogumoro did not release more details.

It was not clear whether an autopsy was conducted to determine Tanoue's cause of death.

The 37-year-old tourist was found motionless on top of a beach mat that was floating at the beach near the Pacific Islands Club Wednesday morning. He was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center and was pronounced dead at 2pm Thursday by Dr. Leo Arcilla.

Police preliminary investigation showed that two Japanese persons swimming at the beach near PIC noticed the victim floating on the water on top of his beach mat.

The victim, who was later identified as Tanoue, was face down and was not moving.

The witnesses sought the help of a nearby lifeguard after noticing that the victim had white foam coming out of his mouth and nose.

The lifeguard brought Tanoue to the shore where he then administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the victim.

Tanoue was then brought to CHC's Intensive Care Unit where he was later pronounced dead. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Beach Road closed on July 4 for parade

The stretch of Beach Road from the Microl Intersection in San Jose to the Horiguchi Building in Garapan to will be closed on July 4 from 12:30pm to 6pm to make way for the Liberation Day Parade.

In addition, all secondary road intersections along the way would also be closed off until the end of the parade, according to the 2008 Liberation Day Steering Committee.

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section is urging all drivers to be careful while traveling along Beach Road, Garapan on the 4th of July.

DPS urges the public to find alternative routes during the road closure.

The annual 4th of July parade will promptly start at 2pm. The parade route will take place from the National Office Supply and end in front of the Kristo Rai Church, Garapan (reviewing stand).

'Safety briefing'

All individuals, groups and organizations participating in the upcoming 4th of July parade will undergo a safety briefing on Monday, June 30, 2008, at 5pm at the Liberation Day Festival grounds (bingo area).

At the same time, the 2008 Liberation Day Steering Committee said it would be also assigning the parade participants' sequential numbers during the briefing.

"Please note that the numbers should be physically affixed and visible on either side of the float for judging purposes," the committee said in a statement. ***(PR)***

Domatsuri dance group to perform at LibDay festival

Dance performers called the "Domatsuri Dancers" from Japan are set to visit Saipan again to participate in this year's 2008 Liberation Day Parade, scheduled for July 4, 2008.

The group will march with other marching groups, along with an array of floats. The group will then perform during the festivities later that evening at the Liberation Day grounds.

As part of the group's visit this year, they will again be extending an invitation for the CNMI to participate in this year's Domatsuri Dance Festival, which is scheduled to take place in early August in Nagoya, Japan. In addition, the organizing committee has once again asked the CNMI to select a representative to serve as a judge in their dance festival.

The Domatsuri Dance Festival started in 1999 when a group of college students created a dance festival that would communicate the excitement of dance in Nagoya and to express that excitement to the world. The first festival had only 26 dance teams with 1,500 performers. Today the festival welcomes 200 dance teams with 23,000 performers from inside and outside Japan and some 1.85 million viewers. It has become one of the largest such events in Japan.

Five years ago, through Chamolinan Cultural Village Inc., Pacific Development Inc., Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Saipan Mayor's Office, the performers were introduced to the CNMI by joining the Liberation Day

See DOMATSURI on Next Page

GREAT BARGAINS
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The Wise Women Project is federally funded by the US DHHS Office on Women's Health ASIST2010 Initiative.

Starkist Samoa sale runs into problems

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa, (Samoa News/PIR)—An official announcement of the sale of Del Monte Foods Company's seafood division StarKist including its subsidiary StarKist Samoa has been postponed indefinitely.

Pulse Asia financial news reported late yesterday that South Korean based food conglomerate Dongwon Group has canceled a press conference originally set for yesterday in Seoul to announce the acquisition of StarKist.

The financial news service quotes a Dongwon official saying the news conference is delayed due to "some differences between the two sides."

Dongwon had announced early this week it would purchase StarKist for US$300 million to expand and this acquisition would expand the company presence in the U.S.

Pulse Asia said it's not clear when Dongwon will announce the deal and the company declined to give details.

There has been no public reaction from San Francisco-based Del Monte regarding the sale, except a statement last week Friday saying that there are ongoing talks and any final decision will be made by the board of directors.

Neither Dongwon nor Del Monte issued any official statement yesterday about the discussions or the cancellation of the news conference.

Congressman Faleomavaega Eni has yet to reply to questions e-mailed to him Monday night seeking comments about the possible sale of StarKist.

Cook Islands to monitor stadium project

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—The Cook Islands government has announced it will inspect all building materials for the multi-purpose sporting complex to be built by the Chinese.

Our reporter in Cook Islands, Ulamila Wragg, reports it's prompted by concerns over the quality of Chinese buildings.

The Chinese are lending the Cook Islands $US9.8 million for a sporting complex and the Chinese will not only build it but also bring in construction materials all the way from China.

The finance minister, Sir Terepai Maoate, says he has been inundated with concerns not only from members of parliament but also from the Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce urging Government to ensure that the Chinese build a quality building.

So far two buildings built for free by the Chinese in the Cook Islands needed urgent repairs within a year since they were built.

Sir Terepai says that quality control and monitoring of the new building and its specifications are important to ensure that the country gets value for money.

A team of local experts will be travelling to China to ensure that the construction materials to be used are suitable and fully meet construction standards.

Sir Terepai says it is critical that there is confidence in the building materials, confidence in the actual construction and that stringent quality control measures are observed.

Cooks receives part of loan for stadium

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—China has released five million US dollars to the Cook Islands government as part of a loan to build a new sports complex and the upgrade of venues around Rarotonga for next year's South Pacific Mini Games.

The money, which is part of a 10 million US dollar concessional loan, will be used to hire Cook Islands contractors in a departure from China's policy to send its own workers.

China has agreed that the earth removal and excavation work, repairs and upgrades of existing sports facilities and amenities and the construction of an education complex will be carried out by locals.

The Cook Islands Finance Minister, Sir Terepai Maoate, who signed the commercial contract on behalf of the Cook Islands government, says construction work can now begin.

However, Sir Terepai says the overall loan agreement is yet to be signed.

Tonga fistfight in parliament no secret

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—The speaker of parliament in the Pacific Island Kingdom of Tonga has tried to have details of a fistfight between three MPs during a sitting removed from the record.

Pacific correspondent Campbell Cooney reports the clash occurred earlier this week.

The editor of online news service Matangi Tonga, Pesi Fonua, says the punch-up involved three members of parliament, including the minister of tourism, after some terse verbal exchanges.

"During their exchanges, or verbal clashes, I think that's when the fight started," he said.

But the speaker of Tonga's parliament, the Honourable Tuilakepa, has tried to brush the incident under the parliamentary carpet.

Pesi Fonua says the speaker claims it is not proper for the media to publicize occurrences like this, and he tried, unsuccessfully, to have details removed from Hansard.

"Yeah he tried to, but he didn't manage to take everything out (laughs)," he said.

It is not known if those involved will be disciplined.

Fiji probes remittance sector for money laundering

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—The remittance sector is being targeted in Fiji for conducting money laundering transactions, the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) said.

The FIU (whose mission is to assist in the detection, investigation and prosecution of money laundering and terrorist financing offences) said this was an emerging trend in suspicious transactions reports (STRs).

The transactions included channelling of proceeds of criminal activities into the country and remittance of funds out of Fiji to circumvent exchange control restrictions.

The FIU said that another emerging trend found in the reported STR cases was the falsifying of trade documents such as purchase invoices and customs entry form.

In addition, the FIU said that Fiji has also recently been used as a target by fraudulent and bogus investors because there has been increase in the number of fraudulent investment proposals with the involvement of locals and foreigners.

There has also been forgery of payment instruments such as bank cheques.

The STRs continuing trends include the transfer of funds from one bank account to another.

The transfer of funds from one common source continues to increase, which appears to be a method of violating requirements under the immigration laws.

DOMATSURI

From Page 3

festivities as a part of their way of expressing the importance of fostering relations between people in both countries through Domatsuri. This offers participants an opportunity to look back at their history and cultural heritage and treasure the communities where they are from. Exchanges between people as they participate in Domatsuri encourage communication and stimulate activities in local communities as well as international exchanges.

The Domatsuri group would like to extend its utmost appreciation to the people of the CNMI, the Mayor of Saipan, the MVA, and all the tourism partners for the invitation and support provided each year during the annual Liberation Day Festival. ***(MVA)***

A TIP

From Page 1

among those who say they are seeing decreases as customers feeling the economic pinch trim their gratuities—or sometimes omit them entirely.

The pinch can come from many sides, as customers also pare how often they eat out, have their nails done, and get other services that typically involve tipping—or spend less each time, meaning a lower total to tip on.

How much it's hurting is hard to tell, since agencies like the Internal Revenue Service and the Census Bureau that collect employment information don't break out tip data. While the Bureau of Labor statistics includes tips in its wage estimates for professions that involve tipping, the information supplied by employers is not broken out separately. Because the government surveys only every six months and publishes the data just once a year, even the statistics it released last month are from before the economy hit the skids.

At the state level, some efforts have been made to help workers dependent on tips for part of their income. The Delaware Senate approved a bill this month that would raise the minimum wage for service workers and others who depend on tips. Supporters say it would help low-wage workers struggling in the current economy. In April, the Missouri House of Representatives rejected legislation that would have lowered base wages in the state for tipped employees.

The National Bartenders Association says the amount of tip income can vary by type of bar, but tips across the board probably make up about half of many bartenders' income—and based on what it's hearing from members, tips are down.

Association president David Craver said the economic pressure on bars and restaurants now is high, especially in very competitive markets.

"There is less overall business to begin with, and then on top of that, people are a little tighter with their money," Craver said. "The next thing you know, everybody's making 25 to 30 percent less . . . than they normally do."

MUNA

From Page 1

lar convenience if he decides to have a change in CUC leadership.

With respect to the recent forum at the Multi-Purpose Center where over 200 people vented their frustration with CUC and expressed solutions and called for privatization, Muna said people have the right to express their opinion.

"I respect that. But people have to understand also that solving a problem like this is about capital. You can say whatever you want to say but absent money on the table, you really can't do much about this situation," he said.

Muna said he acknowledged that there are some service issues at CUC such as people unable to contact the trouble desk and billing disputes.

"Those are managerial. And from my standpoint I'm expecting more from my managers to resolve these service issues…to get people connected within a certain period of time. So that's being developed," he said.

Muna, who's been with CUC for over a month now, described his job as "definitely challenging."

"Frustration comes with the territory, particularly when you want to move faster. When you are financially challenged, you can't move as quickly as you want. If there is any frustration it is in that because we know what the people need," he said.

Taotao Tano leader Greg Cruz has reportedly demanded the termination of Muna. At the recent Multi-Purpose forum, the appointment of a "competent executive director" was also among the issues discussed.

Fitial appointed Muna effective May 5 to replace Anthony Guerrero.

JUDICIARY

From Page 1

criteria have been set for the selection of these officials.

"The stakeholders that this house initiative would impact the most are not being involved in the initial decision making process. The governor, who has the constitutional authority to nominate a chief justice and presiding judge, was not consulted for input. The Senate, which exclusively holds the power to confirm or reject the governor's nominee for these positions, has also not been involved in this important process," Demapan said.

"For these reasons, absent any clear showing of willingness by the governor to relinquish his authority to nominate the chief justice and presiding judge, or the Senate's willingness to surrender its authority to confirm nominees for these two positions, this initiative should fail," he added.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Office has said the selection process for judicial officers is "a public policy question well within the sound discretion of the Legislature."

Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory said that Yumul's proposal has its advantages. He said that having the judges or justices choose one of their own promotes judicial independence and self-sufficiency. It is more flexible and efficient than the confirmation process. Further, it could promote "greater collegiality and responsiveness of the presiding officers to the concerns of their associates."

On the other hand, he said, it could also worsen internal tensions and behind-the-scenes politicking.

"Moreover, since the duties of the presiding officer involve leadership affecting the entire Commonwealth, there is something to be said for letting the people, through their elected representatives from each municipality, having input into the selection of these critically important positions," Gregory said.

Under Yumul's proposal, the chief justice must be chosen by two of the three justices to serve a term of four years. The presiding judge must have the approval of at least three of the five judges to serve for three years.

The initiative also proposes to prevent the chief justice or the presiding judge from serving consecutive terms "to allow different justices and judges to bring a broader range of ideas and programs to the Judiciary."

A legislative initiative requires the approval of three fourths of the members of each house of the Legislature. Once it clears the Legislature, it is placed on the ballot for the voters' ratification.

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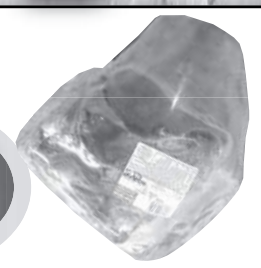

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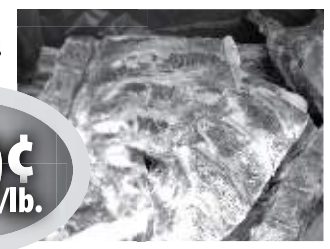

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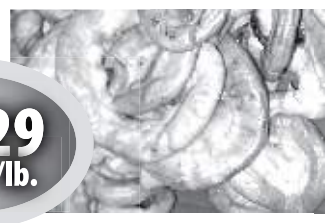

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Grim justice

In concluding that capital punishment can be imposed constitutionally only for the crime of deliberate murder, the Supreme Court wisely has prevented a further expansion of a penalty that is already imposed freakishly and in a discriminatory way. The country, and the court, should be focusing on ending the death penalty, not devising new opportunities to render it.

In a 5-4 decision, the court on Wednesday overturned the death sentence of a Louisiana man convicted of the aggravated rape of his 8-year-old stepdaughter. The crime committed by Patrick Kennedy was bestial, but it has been 44 years since anyone was executed for a rape in which the victim wasn't killed.

And for good reason: In 1977, the Supreme Court overturned a death sentence with a ruling that seemed to end the practice of executing rapists. "Rape is without doubt deserving of serious punishment," Justice Byron R. White wrote, "but in terms of moral depravity and of the injury to the person and to the public, it does not compare with murder, which does involve the unjustified taking of human life."

The reason the Louisiana case even came to the current court was that only four justices in the 1977 ruling thought that capital punishment was constitutional in murder cases but always unconstitutional in rape cases. A fifth, Justice Lewis Powell, offered the narrower rationale that "death is disproportionate punishment for the crime of raping an adult woman," suggesting that child rapists might still be constitutionally sentenced to death. Seizing on that implication, Louisiana and five other states passed laws allowing for the execution of child rapists.

Surprisingly, the majority in this week's ruling accepted the notion that the 1977 decision didn't apply to the rape of a child. This was key, Kennedy said, because it showed that the states were free after 1977 to make child rape a capital offense—yet only a few did so. That was evidence, Kennedy said, that the practice violated "evolving standards of decency," the yardstick the court uses to decide whether a punishment is cruel and unusual. On this point, the dissenters have the better argument. Writing for himself and three other justices, Justice Samuel A. Alito suggested that so few states acted because the 1977 ruling dissuaded legislators from acting for fear the court would overrule them.

One reason Wednesday's decision is so welcome is that, had it gone the other way, some states would have rushed to follow Louisiana by making child rape—and perhaps other nonfatal assaults—subject to the death penalty. Whatever the lapses in Kennedy's logic, the court's decision rightly forecloses that grim possibility and contains the reach of this abhorrent punishment.

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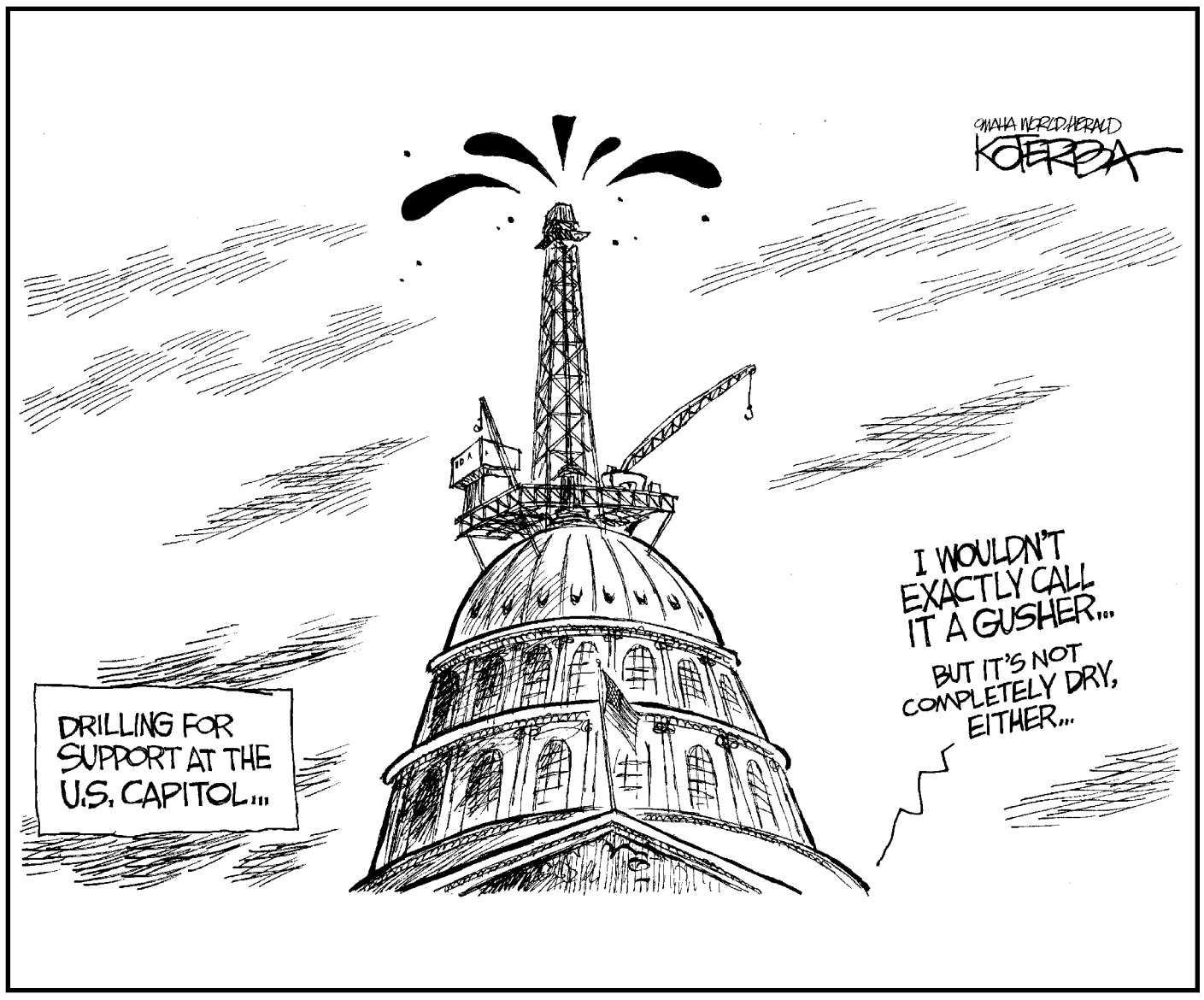
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Can't-do government

By PAUL C. LIGHT
Special to The Washington Post

Paul C. Light is the author of A Government Ill Executed *and a professor at New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service.*

We've seen the federal government at its worst over the past six months. Consider the controversies over contaminated tomatoes and meat, tainted toys, toxic trailers, counterfeit Heparin, aircraft groundings, veterans' care, missing warheads and unrelenting contract fraud. For every NASA success on the surface of Mars, there seems to be a failure back on Earth.

Congress and the presidential candidates have yet to connect the dots: The next president will inherit what Alexander Hamilton called a "government ill executed."

The evidence starts at the top of government, where the next president will oversee at least 64 discrete titles, including associate deputy secretaries, deputy associate undersecretaries and assistant assistant secretaries. The layering not only increases the distance that information must travel before reaching the president, it also obscures true performance.

In addition, the next president will appoint almost 3,000 political executives. Not only will these appointees dilute transparency between the top and bottom of government, but each must go through a brutish approval process that will vitiate the chain of command. The 60 pages of clearance forms have never been more complex or difficult to complete—one set has to be filled out using a typewriter. Hillary Clinton might have promised to be ready on Day One, but she would have been lucky if her appointees were in place by March of Year Two.

The president will also oversee a federal workforce that is increasingly frustrated and demoralized—with good reason. Asked to do more with less, it is close to doing everything with almost nothing. Federal employees do not get the resources necessary to do their jobs; they rate their leadership as barely competent at best (and getting worse) and give their hiring and disciplinary processes failing marks. Turnover is up at all levels, while customer service ratings are down.

The next president will also be responsible for recruiting thousands of new employees. However, many of the most talented young Americans consider the federal government a career of last resort. They understandably wonder whether government service would give them a chance to make a difference and acquire the skills they need in an unforgiving economy. They are not saying "show us the money" but "show us the work." And federal work has not been showing well lately.

Finally, the next president will be in charge of an invisible workforce that has grown from an estimated 4.4 million contractors in 1999 to 7.6 million today. As the number of large contracts has increased and competition has declined, it has become nearly impossible to reward or hold contractors accountable for their work, whether on the streets of Baghdad or on the space shuttle launch pad.

Tinkering will not fix these problems. A faster hiring process merely hastens the day that frustrated young employees leave; deep cuts in the number of presidential appointees merely shift the layering to civil servants. Although both ideas make sense on their own, they will not have much impact without a complete overhaul of the federal machine.

The retirement of baby boomers from the federal workforce could provide the needed impetus for such an effort. If current projections hold, almost half the federal workforce will retire in the coming decade, including many who entered government during the glory days of the 1960s and '70s, when the call to service was bright.

Viewed as an opportunity, the boomers' retirements could produce long-overdue reform, particularly if the vacancies were not automatically filled by the next federal employee in line. Evaluating each job as its occupant left would create opportunities to thin the government hierarchy and fulfill the promise of meaningful work for talented young Americans. The same process could easily be used to trim the number of contractors.

Whereas the contractor cuts would go directly to savings, however, most of the civil service jobs would move to the bottom of the hierarchy, where services are delivered and contracts are managed. The government could hire more food inspectors, passport handlers, revenue agents, intelligence analysts, aircraft monitors, Border Patrol officers, drug testers and contract specialists—positions it needs to fill to better run our country and carry out our laws.

But nothing will happen if the presidential candidates continue to treat the cascade of federal failures as a series of unrelated events, not as a pattern of desperate concern. There is still time this summer for Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama to strike a legislative deal to start repairing government. What better signal that they want to deliver on the promises they make?

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The only answer to Mugabes of the world may be a coup

By PAUL COLLIER
Special to The Washington Post

Collier, an economics professor at Oxford University, is the author of The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done About It.

OXFORD, England—The government of Zimbabwe recently ordered foreign aid groups to halt their operations within its borders, thereby blocking the food aid that the United Nations funnels through such organizations from getting to the country's starving people. Last month, the government of Myanmar issued a similar ban. Of course, when we say "the government of Zimbabwe," what we really mean is President Robert Mugabe, just as "the government of Myanmar" these days means Senior Gen. Than Shwe, the leader of the ruling junta. In justifying the bans, each ruler harrumphed that outsiders should not be allowed to tell his nation what to do. But the real obstacle blocking international food aid is not the principle of national sovereignty; it is the insistence of dictators on being left to call their own shots. Mugabe decided that his citizens were better dead than fed; his nation had no part in the decision.

This murderous outrage reminds us of a central problem in trying to help ease the misery of the developing world, especially the "bottom billion" inhabitants of countries being left behind by global prosperity: Leaders in such sad little states as Zimbabwe and Myanmar are quite ridiculously powerful. They have turned parliament, the news media and the judiciary into mere implementers of their strangling systems of control. But the extraordinary lack of external restraints on these dictators is poorly understood.

Many people are still trapped in a politically correct mindset that sees a strong rich world bullying a weak poor world. The disastrous 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq played straight into this mentality of seeing wealthy countries as bullies. Yet the planet's key power imbalance is not between rich and poor; it is between confident, open governments willing to pool sovereignty to help their publics and crabbed, defensive governments determined not to give up a scrap of sovereignty. The former produce prosperity; the latter manufacture misery.

Compare the powers of Germany's government to those of Zimbabwe's. The German economy is around 400 times larger than the Zimbabwean. But it is the Zimbabwean government, not the German, that has independent monetary, fiscal, trade and migration policies, an independent currency and courts from which one cannot file international appeals. Like virtually all rich countries, Germany has learned that there are real advantages to limiting its own sovereignty and pooling it with neighbors and allies. But the governments of failing states such as Zimbabwe and Myanmar have refused to share any sovereignty with anyone. And remember, in these countries, "government" means the president or other head of state: Mugabe and Shwe have powers that eclipse those of President Bush, let alone those of German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

So how can the grossly excessive powers of the Mugabes and Shwes of the world be curtailed? After Iraq, there is no international appetite for using the threat of military force to pressure thugs. But only military pressure is likely to be effective; tyrants can almost always shield themselves from economic sanctions. So there is only one credible counter to dictatorial power: the country's own army.

Realistically, Mugabe and Shwe can be toppled only by a military coup. Of course, they are fully aware of this danger, and thus have appointed their cronies as generals and kept a watchful eye on any potentially restless junior officers. Such tactics reduce the risk of a coup, but they cannot eliminate it: On average, there have been two successful coups per year in the developing world in recent decades. A truly bad government in a developing country is more likely to be replaced by a coup than by an election: Mugabe will presumably rig the runoff vote scheduled for Friday by intimidation. Or he could follow the example of the last Burmese dictator, who held an election, lost and simply ignored the result.

I find it a little awkward to be writing in praise, however faint, of coups. They are unguided missiles, as likely to topple a democracy as a dictatorship. But there is still something to be said for them.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the international community has taken the rather simplistic position that armies should stay out of politics. That view is understandable but premature. Rather than trying to freeze coups out of the international system, we should try to provide them with a guidance system. In contexts such as Zimbabwe and Myanmar, coups should be encouraged because they are likely to lead to improved governance. (It's hard to imagine things getting much worse.) The question then becomes how to provide encouragement for some potentially helpful coups while staying within the bounds of proper international conduct.

In fact, some basic principles are not that hard to draw. For starters, governments that have crossed the red line of banning U.N. food aid—a ghastly breach of any basic contract between the governors and the governed—should temporarily lose international recognition of their legitimacy. Ideally, such moves should come from the United Nations itself; surely banning U.N. help constitutes a breach of rudimentary global obligations. But realistically, other dictators, worried that they might wind up in the same boat, would rally to block action at the United Nations, so we must look elsewhere.

Which brings us to the obvious locus of international action: Europe. The European Union has a long tradition of setting minimum standards of political decency for its members, who must protect their minorities and defend basic rights. A collective E.U. withdrawal of recognition from the Mugabe or Shwe regimes would be an obvious and modest extension of the values that underpin the European project. Making any such suspension of recognition temporary—say, for three months—would present potential coup plotters within an army with a brief window of legitimacy. They would know that it was now or never, which could spur them to act. And even if the loss of recognition did not induce a quick coup, E.U. recognition would be restored after the three months were up. This would spare the world the gradual accumulation of a club of unrecognized regimes, something both problematic and unrealistic.

The scope of the torment in Myanmar and Zimbabwe should be more than enough of a goad to action. We need to move away from impotent political protest, but we must also face the severe limitations on our own power. The real might lies with a dictator's own forces of repression. Our best hope—and the best hope of suffering citizens—is to turn those very forces against the men they now protect.

Earth can use human engineering

By SAMUEL THERNSTROM
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Thernstrom is co-director of an American Enterprise Institute project to study the policy implications of geo-engineering.

Two facts about climate change have become increasingly clear: New efforts to constrain global greenhouse gas emissions are likely within the next few years—and their effect on the climate will be modest at best.

Rapidly rising emissions in the developing world will swamp whatever reductions the United States, Europe and Japan may make. Atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases will continue to rise for decades to come, and warming will continue well into the next century.

What will happen?

We may hope that the effects will be modest, but there is real risk that they will be very serious, at least for the most vulnerable nations. Some scientists warn of the possibility of abrupt climate change, with unpredictable but conceivably catastrophic consequences. Most troubling, by the time there are unmistakable signs of disaster, even a crash course of emissions reductions will be too late.

Policymakers have only considered two responses to climate change: cutting emissions and adaptation—that is, learning to live with a warmer planet. There is, however, a third possible strategy, one that could be fast, effective and affordable—but that is being ignored. This idea is commonly known as "geo-engineering."

The Earth is warmed by two forces: solar radiation, which enters the atmosphere, and the greenhouse gases that trap it there. There are two ways to cool the planet: reduce greenhouse gases or reduce the amount of solar radiation that reaches the Earth's surface. Or both. If we cannot do enough of the first, we must consider whether the second option—geo-engineering—is feasible.

In fact, geo-engineering could be surprisingly simple. Scientists noted that the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines cooled the planet for two to three years by roughly half a degree Celsius. There are various ways of artificially reproducing this effect. A small amount of ultrafine sulfur particles injected into the upper atmosphere could deflect 1 percent or 2 percent of incoming sunlight—almost unnoticeable, but enough to cancel out the warming expected to occur this century.

Or a fleet of ships spraying seawater into the air might achieve the same general effect by increasing the density of (and thereby the reflectivity of) low-altitude marine clouds.

Even painting the roofs of buildings white would be a low-tech way of reflecting a little sunlight.

A growing number of leading scientists and environmental economists take the idea of geo-engineering very seriously. The National Academy of Sciences, NASA and the U.S. Department of Energy have concluded that geo-engineering could be, in the words of the National Academy, "feasible, economical and capable." The question for policymakers is not whether to deploy a geo-engineering system immediately or to make it the primary focus of climate policy. Rather, it is whether to make a serious investment in the research and development needed to accurately evaluate its risks and rewards. Unfortunately, the Bush administration has declined to pursue such research, although it would cost only a small fraction of the $3 billion the federal government spends annually on developing new technologies to reduce emissions.

Why the reluctance to study this idea? Fear. Fear that geo-engineering would not work, and fear that it would.

There are two concerns about geo-engineering. One is the risk of unintended consequences. Scientists note that sulfur particles could cause stratospheric ozone depletion, although the evidence from Pinatubo suggests that this effect would be modest.

Others fear possible disruption of regional climates, such as the Asian monsoon. Most scientists studying geo-engineering believe that these side effects are not likely to be nearly as dangerous as uncontrolled warming, but much more research is needed.

Fear that geo-engineering might work, however, is the reason some people reject, or are reluctant to even openly discuss, this idea. Critics worry that geo-engineering could be used as an excuse to continue unchecked emissions forever. Within the last two years, three high-level conferences have explored geo-engineering; each was held behind closed doors. One premier university was too frightened to even do that. There have been calls for boycotts of the research or, failing that, strict international regulations.

This concern is badly misplaced. Geo-engineering is a remarkable idea with tremendous potential, but it is neither a permanent nor a perfect solution to warming. There are risks to and, more important, limitations on what it can do. Even among its most enthusiastic advocates, no one calls for a policy of "geo-engineering forever, emissions reductions never." Geo-engineering would be a complement to, rather than a substitute for, a long-term program to transition to a zero-emissions economy.

What geo-engineering could do is buy us time to make that transition while protecting us from the worst potential effects of warming. It may be possible to find ways to phase out fossil fuels or capture their greenhouse gases—but it will take a very long time.

Tom Wigley of the National Center for Atmospheric Research believes that geo-engineering, coupled with a long-term effort to reduce emissions, could stabilize the climate, while doing so through emissions reductions alone would be "virtually impossible." When warming begins to have severe effects on, say, India, it is likely that attention will turn to geo-engineering. The sooner we begin to study this idea seriously, the more we will know when decisions about deployment have to be made.

The idea of "engineering" the climate may strike people as horrifying or absurd; in fact, we are changing the global climate now—in a massive, unintentional and uncontrolled experiment. There is no other public policy problem of comparable importance for which the potential harm is so large and the proposed solutions are so clearly inadequate—while a potentially effective, affordable and practical approach to the issue is being ignored.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼80	▲87° ▼80°

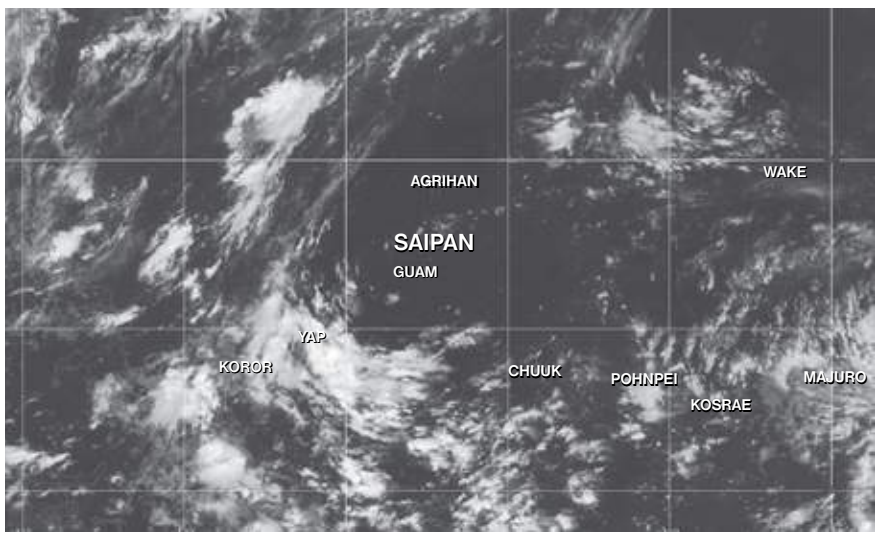
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼70
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼73

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲53	▼44
Beijing	Rain	▲81	▼75
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼74
London	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼57
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲83	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼56
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲90	▼71
Osaka	Rain	▲75	▼68
Paris	Cloudy	▲79	▼62
Pusan	Rain	▲76	▼64
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼69
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲94	▼57
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼56
Seoul	Rain	▲79	▼68
Tokyo	Shower	▲75	▼62
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲92	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northward from 5N130E to a weak circulation centered near 19N131E to 25N132E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near and to the east of the trough axis or west of the Marianas and over Yap and Koror within an area bounded by a line from 23N135E to 15N130E to EQ130E to EQ143E to 10N143E back to 23N135E. Another surface trough runs northward from EQ143E to 10N144E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms can be found between Yap and Chuuk or within 150 miles of a line extending northwestward from EQ155E to 8N144E. An upper-level low centered near 25N165E and a surface trough extending northward from 16N153E to 24N154E are largely responsible for scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 19N and 25N from 151E to 168E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over much of eastern Micronesia including Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within an area bounded by a line from 12N158E to EQ175E to 5N180 to 8N180 back to 12N158E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:06AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
9:24AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
3:55PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:45PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:50AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:51AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:49AM	1:44PM
Sunday	1:34AM	2:46PM
Monday	2:25AM	3:51PM
Tuesday	3:22AM	4:59PM
Wednesday	4:27AM	6:06PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 28, 1999

Easing of nonresident workers' stay sought
The proponent of a stringent legislative initiative seeking a five-year limit on the stay of guest workers in the Commonwealth has agreed to relax his proposal by making the restrictions applicable only to those who are hired after January 1,1999. Another amendment would also call for reduction of the cumulative number of years of employment on the island to four as the initial bill might be grounds for alien workers to qualify for permanent residency if and when U.S. immigration laws are applied here.

Teno set to appoint Demapan as chief justice
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is expected to announce this week the nomination of Superior Court Associate Justice Miguel S. Demapan as Supreme Court chief justice, as well as the new chairmen for the Board of Public Lands and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board. According to sources from the Capitol Hill, the governor will likely pick Demapan to replace former Chief Justice Marty W.K. Taylor, who retired last December from government service.

US CINPAC backs Tinian airport expansion
Rear Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, commander-in-chief of the US Pacific Command, has informed Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan that he was supporting the proposal of the CNMI to expand the use of US leased lands for the improvement of West Tinian Airport. In a letter to Sablan, the U.S. navy chief said he was willing to begin talks in July after his brief visit in the US mainland. Unfortunately, he could not grant the request of Sablan to start the talks in mid-June because he had to attend to some Navy business during that period.

June 28, 2000

Changes to retirement law vetoed
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has disapproved four bills recently passed by the Legislature, two of which had sought to amend retirement laws to give government employees and public servants additional service credits and to expand benefits granted to them. The Senate, holding a session yesterday, attempted to override the veto on one of the retirement measures, but was defeated when it fell short by one vote on the required two-thirds vote by the nine-member chamber.

Senate passes omnibus bill
The proposed Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act finally cleared the Senate yesterday after bringing extensive changes to the House measure following a series of public hearings and meetings held with the private sector and administration officials. It now heads back to the lower house again for action on several amendments. There was no immediate reaction from the House leadership on the Senate draft. Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, who sponsored the legislation, is off-island.

Economic crisis may bring pre-paid cellular phones here
It could be a good side of the down side. Slowdown in economy may push telecommunications industry players in the Northern Marianas to institute a pre-paid service on their mobile telephone services in order to cope with growing concerns on billing collections. Telecom companies have already started exploring the possibility of bringing in the digital cellular telephone technology into the islands, which offer enhanced communications features that are cost effective not only to providers but to the subscribers as well.

June 28, 2001

Mandarin abandons Saipan flights
Mandarin Airlines does not have immediate plans to resume its regular Taipei-Saipan flights, a company executive told Commonwealth Ports Authority officials. "It's sad but we have to respect their decision, although we would continue talking with Mandarin Airlines officials for possible resumption of the Taipei-Saipan flights in the future," said CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios.

Watersports: The good, the bad
Gerry, a 36-year old watersports operator on a Garapan beach, is dismayed over the news. His lips closed tight before he raised his voice: "They're too concentrated on making laws, not livelihood," he grunted in his native tongue. Gerry's business is just one of the 80 companies licensed to operate watersports, a major tourism attraction on the islands.

Business

Oil jumps above $140

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil futures shot above $140 Thursday after OPEC's president said crude prices could rise well above $150 a barrel this year and Libya said it may cut oil production. The advance raised the likelihood that gasoline prices would also extend their march higher, and that prices of goods and services throughout the economy would also keep rising.

Light, sweet crude crossed the $140 level minutes before the New York Mercantile Exchange closed Thursday, then retreated slightly to settle up $5.09 at a record $139.64. In after-hours electronic trading, prices rose as high as a record $140.39.

Oil's latest milestone came as Chakib Khelil, president of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, said he believes oil prices could rise to between $150 and $170 a barrel this summer. Khelil also said prices will decline later in the year, and aren't likely to reach $200 a barrel.

Khelil joined a long list of forecasters who have made bold oil price predictions this year. Each new forecast—such as Goldman Sachs' recent prediction that prices could rise as high as $200—causes a jump in prices as speculative buyers are drawn into the market.

Meanwhile, the head of Libya's national oil company said the country may cut crude production because the oil market is well supplied, according to news reports.

"Shokri Ghanem, the nation's top oil official, declined to say when a decision would be made on whether to lower production, or give any indication of the size of the cut under consideration," said Addison Armstrong, director of market research at Tradition Energy in Stamford, Conn., in a research note.

Fragile economy improves but…

WASHINGTON (AP)—The fragile economy improved slightly at the beginning of the year and could grow a bit stronger in the current quarter as extra cash from tax rebates spurs people to buy more. Still, it's not out of danger yet.

The economy grew at a 1 percent annualized rate in the first quarter, helped in large part by stronger sales of U.S. products overseas, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

That was a tad stronger than the government's previous estimate of 0.9 percent growth for the quarter. And, the new reading was better than the anemic 0.6 percent growth rate logged in the final three months of last year.

Nonetheless, the two quarters together marked the slowest growth in five years. The economy has been bruised by housing, credit and financial problems. That led consumers during the first quarter alone to boost their spending at the weakest pace since the 2001 recession.

However, the government's tax rebates, the centerpiece of a $168 billion stimulus package, have helped to energize consumer spending in recent months, which should bolster the overall economy's performance in the April-to-June quarter.

Nieves F. Babauta and Felix A. Ayuyu
Saipan, MP
Telephone No. 483-5463 (Rosalinda Ayuyu)

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of)
the Petition to Appoint) FCD GU
General Guardianship for:) CIVIL ACTION
LORENA LYN FUJIHIRA BABAUTA,) NO. 08-0359
Minor Child)
By:) **NOTICE OF**
DAVINA MANIBUSAN AYUYU) **HEARING**
and FELIX ALDAN AYUYU, JR.)
Petitioners.)
_____)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 07, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 26th day of June, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Angeline Marie Jones Ayuyu
P.O. Box 506552
Saipan, MP 96950
233-5463/483-5463

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of)
the Petition to Appoint) FCD GU
General Guardianship for:) CIVIL ACTION
JASSELINE MARIE AYUYU SEMAN,) NO. 08-0336
Minor Child)
By:) **NOTICE OF**
FLORENCE ANN AYUYU PANGELINAN) **HEARING**
And RONNY LIZAMA PANGELINAN,)
Petitioners.)
_____)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 07, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Nation

High Court affirms gun rights in historic decision

WASHINGTON (AP)—Silent on central questions of gun control for two centuries, the Supreme Court found its voice Thursday in a decision affirming the right to have guns for self-defense in the home and addressing a constitutional riddle almost as old as the republic over what it means to say the people may keep and bear arms.

The court's 5-4 ruling struck down the District of Columbia's ban on handguns and imperiled similar prohibitions in other cities, Chicago and San Francisco among them. Federal gun restrictions, however, were expected to remain largely intact.

The court's historic awakening on the meaning of the Second Amendment brought a curiously mixed response, muted in some unexpected places.

The reaction broke less along party lines than along the divide between cities wracked with gun violence and rural areas where gun ownership is embedded in daily life. Democrats have all but abandoned their long push for stricter gun laws at the national level after deciding it's a losing issue for them. Republicans welcomed what they called a powerful precedent.

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, straddling both sides of the issue, said merely that the court did not find an unfettered right to bear arms and that the ruling "will provide much-needed guidance to local jurisdictions across the country." But another Chicagoan, Democratic Mayor Richard Daley, called the ruling "very frightening" and predicted more violence and higher taxes to pay for extra police if his city's gun restrictions are lost.

Republican presidential candidate John McCain welcomed the ruling as "a landmark victory for Second Amendment freedom."

The court had not conclusively interpreted the Second Amendment since its ratification in 1791. The amendment reads: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

The basic issue for the justices was whether the amendment protects an individual's right to own guns no matter what, or whether that right is somehow tied to service in a state militia, a once-vital, now-archaic grouping of citizens. That's been the heart of the gun control debate for decades.

Writing for the majority, Justice Antonin Scalia said an individual right to bear arms exists and is supported by "the historical narrative" both before and after the Second Amendment was adopted.

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas teen charged in baby's school bathroom death

BAYTOWN, Texas (AP)—A 14-year-old girl who secretly gave birth in a school bathroom was charged with capital murder Thursday by police, who said she killed the newborn by choking and flushing him in the toilet. The girl was charged as a juvenile; Baytown police Capt. Roger Clifford said prosecutors will decide whether to certify her as an adult. She cannot be executed if convicted because of her age. The girl gave birth April 2 in a bathroom at Cedar Bayou Junior High. Police said she stuffed toilet paper in the infant's throat and submerged him in a toilet. An autopsy confirmed the baby was alive and cried before his mother tried to flush him, police Lt. Eric Freed said.

Obama donates, asks donors to help Clinton's debt

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama told Hillary Rodham Clinton's top financial backers Thursday that he personally has donated $2,300 to her campaign and more significantly has asked his biggest donors to help pay off her more than $20 million debt. Obama made the announcement at a meeting with Clinton donors who have been frustrated that the Democratic presidential nominee-in-waiting had not done more to help her pay the bills even as they are expected to help fund his campaign. The size of Obama's donation is the most he can contribute under federal law.

NY millionaire gets prison for enslaving workers

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. (AP)—A millionaire who inflicted years of abuse on two Indonesian housekeepers held as virtual slaves in her Long Island mansion was sentenced Thursday to 11 years in prison. Varsha Sabhnani, 46, was convicted with her husband in December on a 12-count federal indictment that included forced labor, conspiracy, involuntary servitude and harboring aliens. The victims testified that they were beaten with brooms and umbrellas, slashed with knives, and forced to climb stairs and take freezing showers as punishment. One victim was forced to eat dozens of chili peppers against her will, and then was forced to eat her own vomit when she couldn't keep the peppers down, prosecutors said. Mahender Sabhnani, 51, who is free on bail while awaiting his own Friday sentencing, wept as he watched his wife's punishment pronounced.

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Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board has been changed to July 10, 2008 at 6:00 pm. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Department of Public Lands, Joeten Building, DanDan. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Public Hearings. None
D. Contested Cases. None
E. Permits and Related Actions - Review and Decide
   1. 2008-0670 Conditional Use Application by GPPC for contractor's office and heavy equipment storage (continued from May 8, 2006 meeting).
   2. 2008-0278 Final Plat Application, Trini Santos, major subdivision, lot 031 F 21.
   3. 2008-0797 Final Plat Application, Rita Cruz, major subdivision, lot 002 C 13.
   4. 2008-0968 Final Plat Application, Rita Cruz, major subdivision, lot 001 C 14.
   5. 2008-0908 Preliminary Plat Application, A. Vekhov, major subdivision, lot TR 2045/08 and TR 2044/08
F. Old Business
   1. Review proposals for adult business park zoning districts. Decide on publishing proposed regulations to establish adult business park zoning districts.
   2. Amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law and Official Saipan Zoning Maps. Approve amendments to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps. Approve transmittal of proposed Zoning Law amendments to the Legislative Delegation.
   3. Review proposed wind energy system regulation and approve for publication as proposed regulation.
G. New Business.
   1. Review new proposals for rezones and approve advertising for public comment.
H. Public Comment
I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
J. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

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Maharlika – PinoyNews

Search halted, pesticide found inside ferry

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials suspended retrieval Friday of hundreds of bodies believed trapped inside a sunken ferry due to fears divers may be exposed to toxic chemicals in the cargo hold.

Vice President Noli de Castro told reporters that 22,000 pounds (10,000 kilograms) of the pesticide endosulfan intended for pineapple plantations of Del Monte Philippines went down with the ferry when it capsized at the height of a typhoon last Saturday in the central Philippines.

"Because this pesticide is dangerous, we have temporarily aborted the retrieval operations at the ship," he said.

AP

Philippine Coast Guard divers conduct search and rescue operation for the sunken passenger ferry, MV Princess of the Stars, off Sibuyan Island in central Philippines on Wednesday June 25, 2008.

More than 100 divers, including eight U.S. servicemen, have joined the search.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque said the pesticide does not easily dissolve in water and could be lethal to humans.

He warned against eating fish caught in the area until tests show they have not been contaminated.

It remains unclear how many of the 850-plus passengers and crew were trapped inside when the 23,824-ton Princess of the Stars suddenly listed and went belly up in a half-hour or less during the powerful typhoon, leaving just the tip of the bow jutting from the water.

Abu Sayyaf kidnaps 5 workers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected Abu Sayyaf militants kidnapped five employees of a rural electric company in the southern Philippines on Thursday despite a new U.S.-backed offensive against the al-Qaida-linked rebels, officials said.

The Basilan Electric Cooperative Inc. employees were traveling in a jeep when the militants blocked them and dragged them away at gunpoint in remote Tuburan township on the predominantly Muslim island of Basilan, army spokesman Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner said.

One of the workers was freed later Thursday, apparently because he belonged to the local Yakan tribe, many members of which belong to the Abu Sayyaf, marine Lt. Col. Leonard Teodoro said.

The U.S. has blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist group responsible for kidnappings, beheadings and bombings, including an explosion that set a ferry ablaze near Manila Bay in 2004, killing 116 people in Southeast Asia's second-worst terrorist attack.

Military chief of staff Gen. Alexander Yano told journalists Thursday that the Abu Sayyaf, leaderless and short of money, has splintered and turned to banditry. Abu Sayyaf fighters, estimated to number more than 300, have scattered in Basilan and nearby islands, on the run from pursuing troops.

"It has degenerated into a moneymaking group or activity devoid of any semblance of ideology or cause. They have degenerated into plain bandits," Yano said.

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Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Thursday, June 26, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 11, 2008.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB08-013**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time **Monday, July 21, 2008**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Monday, July 21, 2008**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com" procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 21, 2008**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **July 30, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m.**, local time, **July 31, 2008**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on **July 21, 2008**.

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $4.05 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Obama unable to meet GMA but calls her

NEW YORK CITY (INQUIRER.net)—Democratic Party presidential candidate Barack Obama called President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at her suite this Thursday (Friday, Manila time), one of her officials said. Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said the President was upbeat and in high spirits after the call, which lasted for a few minutes. But Dureza said the call also meant that "there will be no more person to person visit between the President and Obama," he said. Arroyo was supposed to meet Obama last June 25 but was moved to Thursday night due to the conflicting schedules of the two officials.

Red Cross seeks $7.9M to help typhoon victims

GENEVA (AP)—The Red Cross federation is appealing for US$7.9 million to fund emergency aid for victims of last week's cyclone in the Philippines. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies says the money is needed for providing clean water, emergency shelters and other relief items to about 400,000 people for the next three months.

Peso rebounds on Fed move to hold off rate hike

MANILA, Philippines (INQUIRER.net)—Financial markets Thursday cheered the US Federal Reserve's shift to a neutral monetary stance, as the pause in the hike of interest rates could boost sentiment on currencies, stocks and bonds from the Philippines and other emerging Asian markets. The peso rebounded to close at 44.46 to the dollar from Wednesday's close of 44.59 after the Fed kept its key interest rate steady at 2.00 percent, halting the aggressive monetary easing in recent months.

LABOR FRONT

Termination for cause, consent

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: What is termination for cause?

A: During the term of the contract, an employer or employee may terminate an approved employment contract for cause as defined in the contract. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, an employer shall give written notice to the foreign national worker and to the Department of Labor on a standard form provided by Labor at least 10 days prior to the termination date.

An alien worker may file a complaint with the Labor Administrative Hearing Office contesting a termination for cause. The Labor director may investigate a termination to determine if the termination was in compliance with Commonwealth law and these regulations.

■■■

Q: What is termination by consent?

A: The Regulations state that an employer and employee may terminate an approved employment contract by consent during the term of the contract. The consent of the employee, the Regulations further states, shall be evidenced by an appropriate writing filed with Labor at least 10 days prior to the termination date.

■■■

Q: Who should be responsible for medical expenses and repatriation of an alien worker whose employment contract gets terminated?

A: The Regulations state that under any termination of an approved employment contract, the employer remains the last employer of record (responsible for medical expenses and repatriation) until the foreign national worker transfers, is repatriated, or in the case of medical expenses, a period of 96 days expires.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.

Welcome and Good Luck to all Participants!

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Is Gretchen leaving the country for good?

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—I cornered Pops Fernandez about what really happened during her dinner with Gretchen Barretto and Ruffa Gutierrez at Dusit Hotel. Reports say that Greta's credit card got declined so Ruffa ended up footing the bill.

Afterwards, Greta and her partner Tony Boy Cojuangco were seen having a heated argument. Apparently, Greta was disgusted because of the credit card incident.

"You know me girl, I never ask," said Pipay. "That's why I just sing (laughs)." Concert Queen turns Deadma Queen.

Ruffa Gutierrez, left, and Gretchen Barretto.

Tired of the limelight?

Speaking of Greta, she's been quoted as saying that she's tired of living in Manila, where her every move is being watched. So she will leave the country soon. I doubt that she will be gone for good, though. Greta basks in the limelight. What she hates about being a celebrity is also what she loves about it.

Topless pose

Angel Locsin's manager Becky Aguila sees nothing wrong with Gel's topless billboard shot for Folded & Hung. "The fashion calls for it," Becky explains. "No malice in the pose. It was done with class. It's within the moral parameters of Angel being a wholesome endorser."

After "Lobo" wraps up, Angel will fly to Bangkok for a commercial shoot. Then she will have rehab therapy for a mild case of slipped disc and start shooting her movie with Piolo Pascual in Bukidnon and Australia. The endless intrigues pitting Angel against Marian Rivera like in FHM's sexiest poll is a non-issue, really. Angel's too blessed to be stressed (by controversies).

Taking a break

Patrick Garcia left for the US to take a break from intrigues hounding him about his love child-to-be with Jennylyn Mercado.

"Di ba dapat ako ang magbakasyon dahil puro stress binibigay niya sa akin at buntis pa ako," said Jen.

She doesn't see the need to fix things between them. "I'm happier now," she added.

Pat and Jen are no longer lovers nor friends. But for the sake of their forthcoming baby, they ought to learn how to co-exist as parents.

Best defense

Cheska Garcia takes the cudgels for her brother Patrick. "He chooses to be quiet. He's not the type who retaliates. It's unfortunate that people are putting words into his mouth. Anybody can say bad things about him but it's who he really is, inside, that counts. Nobody can take that away from him," she said.

"I admire Pat for his patience. Not everybody can hold their tongue that long, especially when you have been stepped on repeatedly. It frustrates me that he would rather keep to himself but he knows what he's doing. He's not perfect; nobody is. But he's not heartless, either."

Ex-lovers' reunion

Ex-lovers Dingdong Avanzado and Rachel Alejandro bumped into each other at Ruffa Gutierrez's birthday party. Did he see his controversial ex Rufa Mae Quinto who was also at the fete? "Nope, di kami nagabot ni Pchi. Guess it's not the right time," says Dingdong. Why can't they be friends the way he and Rachel are? "Rachel didn't say anything to hamper the friendship. We are planning a reunion. It's fine with Jessa as long as kasama siya (laughs)." Could have Pchi misread his signals before? "I don't think there was any mixed signals," he insists. "Pchi knows very well why our relationship couldn't go any further. Out of respect for her, I didn't go into details about the matter."

RP's Miss U bet says she'll win

RAFFY LERMA

BINIBINING Pilipinas Universe Jennifer Barrientos is flanked by Miss World contender Janina San Miguel (left) and Miss International bet Patricia Fernandez during Barrientos' send-off party.

By ARMIN ADINA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Binibining Pilipinas Jennifer Barrientos is currently in Vietnam for the 57th annual Miss Universe beauty pageant, confident she'll bring home the crown on July 14.

"I know I will win," Barrientos told members of the press during her send-off party at the posh Mandarin Oriental Suites at the Gateway Mall in Quezon City.

The 5-foot-8 University of Sto. Tomas Tourism graduate declared she still possessed the same confidence that helped make her Bb. Pilipinas victory possible.

Barrientos, 22, stole the show from heavy favorites in the local pageant last March, winning the coveted title even if she had not won any special awards.

Pre-pageant favorite Danielle Castaño, who bagged the lion's share of awards, finished second.

There are also early favorites in the Miss Universe contest, with Latin American candidates who trained months ahead of Barrientos topping pre-pageant polls.

But Barrientos said she remained unperturbed, as she had made the necessary preparations.

She was not sent to Colombia for beauty pageant workshops like her predecessors. But she had hair and makeup sessions with David's Salon, foreign language training with Berlitz, personality development courses with Dale Carnegie, and dance lessons with Powerdance artistic director Douglas Nierras. The German ambassador's Vietnamese wife taught Barrientos how to converse with the locals in Vietnam.

And her preparations still included a Colombia-patterned training designed for international tilts.

Binibining Pilipinas Karen Agustin, who trained in Colombia for the 2002 Miss Universe, gave Barrientos a sample of "Pasarela" or catwalk lessons. Colombia-trained queens Lia Andrea Ramos and Gionna Cabrera, Miss International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman and Binibining Pilipinas-International Nadia Lee Cien Shami also shared tips.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Are you paid what you're worth?

Editor's Note: This article is a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I have been a secretary at a car dealership for three years now. Since I was hired, I only got one salary increase, but everyone else had at least two. I think I deserve a salary increase since I have been working hard all these years. How can I know if what I'm receiving is the standard rate? How can I ask for a raise? – Marian

Answer: You're not alone in wondering if you're getting the right salary for the job you have. Every job seeker is thinking of the very same thing — what is the right salary for this job I'm applying for?

And with times being hard the way they are now, many employees are getting restless, hoping their salaries will keep up with the increase in prices of basic goods.

First things first: A salary is compensation for services rendered. Ideally, the salary should be fair and should match the money equivalent of the services given. But sometimes, due to the company's lack of resources for one, this does not happen, resulting in a low payout to the person who rendered service.

Before you come to that conclusion in your case, first make an honest assessment of your skills and qualifications. Know what you're worth. Look at your educational achievement, as well as the skills you're good at. Factor in as well the number of years you have been working.

Next, read the classified ads for the position you have. Some employers indicate the salary they are offering for a similar position such as yours. At most this should give you an idea as to how much an entry level post as secretary would fetch in terms of salary. Since you have been working for some time already, you should be earning well above such salary level.

You can also browse online for salaries for your position. One such local tool is at www.jobstreet.com. Or talk to friends and contacts in the personnel departments of other companies. Just ask for the salary range of a secretary with a three-year work experience.

Bear in mind that salaries differ from one location to another. Jobs in major cities may come with higher salaries as compared to those in small towns in the provinces, due to the higher cost of living in urban areas.

If you feel that your current salary is not fair given your qualifications, you can go ahead and ask for a raise. It's worth a try. But before doing so, make sure that you have been turning in good work consistently.

Companies usually conduct a formal evaluation of an employee's work attitude and output annually. After such an evaluation, if you have scored well in it, ask for a raise when your boss is in a good mood. Be prepared to justify your need for it, citing your qualifications as well as your consistent excellent work.

For some companies, especially at this time when the business environment is not that rosy, granting salary increases may simply be beyond their capacity. Start-up companies may not afford it as they are still establishing themselves in the market. In that case, ask for other benefits instead, such as health card services, telecommuting, transportation and clothing allowance, more vacation time, or even additional training through workshops conducted outside the company. If you are valuable to the company, your employer will find a way to grant you a perk they can afford at this time.

Still, if any of these cannot be granted, don't lose hope. Continue turning in good work, and in time, when the company is in a better position financially, you may be rewarded fairly.

In case, however, you feel that you really have to seek a higher-paying job given your family's needs, don't grab the first job you hear of. Scout around by combing the classified ads in newspapers and job websites, and by asking your network of friends and family for referrals. Find out all you can about a company before sending in your application.

Choose a company with offices near your residence so you can keep your cost of living low. Then when you are interviewed, highlight your skills. When you are offered the job and given a salary figure, ask what benefits you can get. Weigh all these against what you feel you are worth. Bargain if you have to do so. But please do your job hunting outside office hours since you are still obligated to render good work to your present employer.

We wish you the best.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

Maharlika – Opinyon

'Act of God'

MANILA, Philippines—Officials of the disaster-prone Sulpicio Lines have blamed "an act of God" for the sinking of their ferry MV *Princess of the Stars* at the height of Typhoon Frank off Sibuyan Island in Romblon province last Saturday. The ferry sank with 849 passengers and crew on board. The latest reports on rescue efforts count 48 survivors, but the rest of the passengers have either been found dead or remain sealed in the hull of the capsized vessel.

This account of determining responsibility for the loss of human lives was given at the hearing of the Board of Marine Inquiry last Wednesday. This was understood to mean that the typhoon, which caught the ship was a natural phenomenon, and the logic seems to be that the shipowners and the ship's captain are not accountable for the loss of human lives caused by natural phenomena which are beyond the control of humans and their machines.

It may also be argued that when this "act of God" took place, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, half of her Cabinet and a large entourage were in the midst of an official visit to the United States, and it was just bad timing that the disaster broke out. This forced her to react to the emergency by running the government by remote control. She had no choice but to respond to the criticism in the home front that she was on a junket while the country was devastated by the typhoon that nearly submerged Panay Island by conducting a teleconference on the US West Coast, in which she issued a barrage of emergency directives to show that she was in control and hands-on despite her physical distance from the center of the catastrophe. Unfortunately for Sulpicio Lines, the President did not quite agree with the company's passing of the responsibility to "God," and she was determined to make it accountable for the Princess of the Stars tragedy.

Before a meeting with the US-ASEAN Business Council and the US Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday morning (Manila time), the President said: "We are holding the ferry company accountable to ensure that we find how this ferry tragedy could have occurred so we can take steps to make sure it never happens gain." She said this as she ordered a thorough investigation of the tragedy, in which government agencies which have regulatory oversight on marine safety in the archipelago will be put on the carpet, including on the issue of why they cleared the ship to sail in the midst of the raging typhoon. While Sulpicio's shipping rivals, Super Ferry and Negros Navigation, anchored their ships in port in the face of the typhoon signals from the PAGASA weather bureau, Sulpicio Lines threw caution to the wind and tempted the wrath of nature, with tragic consequences, by sailing its ships into the seas threatened by typhoons.

An inventory by Inquirer Research of sea disasters in the country during the last two decades showed that Sulpicio Lines topped the local shipping industry in terms of sea disasters. According to the Inquirer survey, since 1987 and until the sinking of *Princess of the Stars*, Sulpicio Lines vessels figured in at least three maritime disasters. In all three accidents, the company was cleared of any criminal responsibility for the deaths of thousands of passengers.

On Dec. 20, 1987, MV *Doña Paz*, collided with a Caltex-hired oil tanker *Vector* in Tablas Strait which divides Mindoro and Marinduque. More than 4,000 people perished in the sinking of *Doña Paz*, in a disaster considered as the worst maritime disaster in the Philippines after the sinking of the Corregidor which struck a mine in Manila Bay during World War II.

On Oct. 24 1988, Sulpicio's MV *Doña Marilyn* sailed from Manila for Tacloban City in the middle of a storm. The ship capsized, sending at least 250 people to their death.

On Sept. 18, 1998, Sulpicio's MV *Princess of the Orient* left Manila for Cebu City in the middle of a storm. The ship sank near Manila Bay. At least 150 passengers died.

At the hearing of the Board of Marine Inquiry last Wednesday, Sulpicio Lines manifested that it was unaware of a new set of updated guidelines issued in June 2007 to be followed during stormy weather. The new guidelines put the movement of vessels during Storm Signal No. 1 (winds of from 30 to 60 kph) under the responsibility of shipowners. The company's lawyer, Arthur Lim, read to the inquiry a "protest" to report that the sinking of MV *Princess of the Stars* was a result of the "fortuitous event of an act of God, particularly Typhoon Frank, that was the cause of the frustration of the voyage and the loss of our good ship."

The chair of the inquiry, Rear Adm. Ramon Liwag, said the revised circular states that the movement of any vessel is left to the decision and responsibility of the shipowner when Signal No. 1 is up at the point of origin, route and destination. The 2007 circular says no vessel will be allowed to sail when Signal No. 3 or 4 is raised on its point of origin, route and destination. Liwag pointed out that Signal No. 3 was raised in Masbate which was on the route of Princess of the Stars.

Sulpicio Lines first vice president Edgar Go said he was not aware of the 2007 circular. Under questioning, Go said that when the vessel left Manila the sea condition was "slight."

Asked if Sulpicio Lines was aware that the ship's route was on the path of Typhoon Frank, Go replied that "during that time, the typhoon was far away from the pre-plotted track."

EDITORIAL

Suspicious lines

In the last two decades, four ships of Sulpicio Lines figured in catastrophic accidents, causing the death of several thousands. If an airline had that kind of record, it would have been hounded out of business. The question, then, that haunts the country's traveling public: Why is Sulpicio Lines still in business?

The question sounds unfair—unless, that is, it is understood in the context of the capsizing of its flagship *Princess of the Stars* last week, at the height of Typhoon "Frank."

On Dec. 20, 1987, MV *Doña Paz* sank after a collision with oil tanker MT *Vector*. More than 4,000 people died, making it the worst peacetime maritime disaster in history.

Less than a year after the sinking of *Doña Paz*, on Oct. 24, 1988, tragedy struck again. MV *Doña Marilyn* left Manila for Tacloban City, in the middle of a storm, despite the raising of the storm signal over Leyte from No. 2 to 3. When the ship capsized, at least 250 people died.

Ten years later, on Sept. 18, 1998, the line's biggest ship, MV *Princess of the Orient*, left Manila for Cebu City—again in the middle of a storm, and again with terrible loss of life. *Princess of the Orient* sank near Manila Bay, sending at least 150 passengers to their death.

The final death toll from the sinking of *Princess of the Stars* has not yet been determined, but it may reach into the hundreds. The real tragedy is: Each one was avoidable.

As in 1988 and in 1998, Sulpicio Lines had a choice. To wait out a typhoon, or to brave the difficult weather. That it chose to set sail, despite the likelihood of very rough seas, despite the decision of other shipping companies to wait for better weather, means the lessons of *Doña Marilyn* and *Princess of the Orient* have not in fact sunk in. That Sulpicio Lines decided to risk the voyage means the tragedy of *Doña Paz* had failed to force the company to redefine the meaning of risk.

For the shipping line, the real risk was losing its franchise. Since it did not lose it, since it continued to do business despite the *Doña Paz* trauma and despite the *Doña Marilyn* and *Princess of the Orient* disasters, allowing *Princess of the Stars* to leave harbor even in the middle of a storm did not constitute a risk. Loss of lives (which the company habitually computes at an insurable amount of P200,000 per passenger) is a mere inconvenience.

2008 Philippine Daily Inquirer

Bigger storms

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was storming last Sunday. After learning that MV *Princess of the Stars* had sunk while sailing through storm-tossed waters, she called from San Francisco, demanding to know from the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and the Philippine Coast Guard, "Why did you allow it to sail and why was there no ample warning?" She specifically berated Vice Adm. Wilfredo Tamayo, Coast Guard chief: "When did you issue the warning to all vessels (not to sail)?" She said "when" at least six times, as Tamayo tried to explain. The tongue-lashing was broadcast live on national radio.

There is no truth to the rumor that the NDCC replied when asked why it allowed the ship to sail, "We thought you were aboard, Ma'am."

To be sure the NDCC and the Coast Guard deserved the public chastising. The only thing that left a bad taste in the mouth was the person doing it with the nation as captive audience. You may not demand responsibility when you yourself display staggering levels of irresponsibility. I don't know if this country still remembers, but the last time I heard Arroyo repeating a word on the phone was when she called up a fellow named "Garci." The word was not "when," it was "hello."

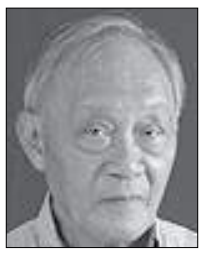
Juan de la Cruz may very well berate her in public in exactly the same terms. The ship of state is floundering, if it has not slammed into a rock and bellied up yet. It has been set a-sail despite the more ferocious storm of public opinion that says the captain steering the ship never got her diploma from the School of Elections and amid the howling winds of public fury expressed in rallies, marches and protests against a ruler who has broken records in lack of acceptance by the ruled. "Why did you sail the ship of state into a churning sea, and why did you refuse to turn back despite ample, angry and strident warnings from the Citizens' Catastrophe Prevention Center?" "When will you stop plunging the ship of state to the bottom of the Pacific Ocean?" "When will you resign?

Epic as the tragedy of the sinking of *Princess of the Stars* is, there are in fact other, more alarming concerns that Typhoon "Frank" has brought to light. Concerns that have escaped public attention from the focus drawn on the sea mishap. The first of that concern is the storm itself.

Lest we forget, Frank didn't just sink *Princess of the Stars*, it also sank the provinces of Iloilo and Aklan and Metro Manila, and left more than 200 people dead in its wake. I've been saying all this time that we are not just facing two crises today of mind-boggling severity and indefiniteness, which are the food and oil crises, we are facing a third, which is natural disasters of even more mind-boggling severity and indefiniteness. Which comes from the environmental crisis, also called global warming, environmental degradation, climate change. It's happening everywhere as we speak: in the hurricanes that have struck the United States, in the earthquakes that have razed parts of Burma and China, in the superstorms that have devastated Infanta town and Albay province. I do not know which is more frightening, the death toll from those disasters or our factoring of it to a point where we now find a hundred people dead "normal."

ANALYSIS

By AMANDO DORONILA
Philippine Daily Inquirer



THERE'S THE RUB

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Cold comfort as it is, and at the risk of insulting the kin of the dead from Typhoon Frank, we can at least thank heaven its toll was not as bad as China's or Burma's from the earthquakes. I've been warning about this for some time: the terrifying prospect not just of the combined effects of the rice crisis and the fuel crisis unraveling over the next few months or years, but of these happening alongside the effects of environmental degradation. Almost overnight after Typhoon Frank struck, the prices of rice, meat and fish soared in all wet markets. As I write this, rice in some parts of the country was expected to reach P50 a kilo.

This is just the beginning. The weather is messed up and has gotten fickle, and life has become fragile in all parts of the world. You don't know where the next major disaster will strike. Typhoon Frank has just hinted at the shape of things to come, a warning for those who imagine it is just part of normal cycle of storms to visit this country, like those who imagine the food and oil scarcities are just part of the normal boom-bust cycle of the economy. Things are going to get worse, unless we move strenuously to avert it. Unless we produce more food ourselves, change our lifestyle to save fuel or shift to alternatives, and do our share of saving the planet.

Which brings me to the other concern that Typhoon Frank has brought to light. That is the fourth, more immediate and worrisome, crisis we're facing today, which is the crisis of government. We're facing a worse situation today than the world did during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Then, the limits were economic; today, the limits are physical. The planet is dying from carbon emissions, and fossil fuel is near to depletion. Only food is a renewable resource. These are the very times when, as I wrote about earlier this week, we need a government that is honest and truthful. These are the very times when we need a leader we can trust and rally behind. These are the very times when we need a Winston Churchill who can inspire people to shed blood, sweat and tears to face a war, or a Franklin Delano Roosevelt who can convince people they can expect a good deal from government as they face want.

That is what we have not got. All we have is someone we distrust and want to distance ourselves from. That conclusion is as inescapable as the fate bearing down on the people trapped in the womb, or tomb, of a sinking ship. Except that I don't know why we should resign ourselves to this fate.

Arroyo was storming last weekend. Some storms are worse than others.

Samu't Sari

PRIDE PARTY
Event hosts Marconi and Hapi gather for a photo with close friends during the second annual CNMI LGBT Pride Dance Party dubbed "Hard Candy" at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V Wednesday night.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Garrie, Obet, Malou, Kae and Hapi strike a pose during the second annual CNMI LGBT Pride Dance Party held at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V Wednesday night.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Grand Hotel's Oscar Yema pose for a picture with Madonna impersonators during the CNMI LGBT Pride Dance Party at Club V Wednesday night.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Event hosts Marconi and Hapi gather for a photo with Eli, Haidee, Nhorleen and Chris during the second annual CNMI LGBT Pride Dance Party at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V Wednesday night.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PISTANG PINOY
Hundreds of Filipino community members gather inside the Garapan Central Park to watch the "Pistang Pinoy" program.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Winners of the Madonna lip-synch competition strike a pose.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Paul and Neil perform a song number during the recent "Pistang Pinoy" in celebration of the 110th Philippine Independence Day at the Garapan Central Park.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Bayani Association dance troupe perform a traditional Filipino dance number.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Youngstyle

Exciting summer plans for Saipan teens

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Thousands of public school students are now in the midst of this year's new three-month summer break. While most teens spend their summer just hanging out at the beach with families and friends, many students are also involved in summer internships, attending summer classes and getting involved in community services and events.

Here, four teens share with Youngstyle their plans for summer.

Pagarao

RACHEL PAGARAO

Rachel Pagarao is a part-time Retail Sales Associate at the Hard Rork Café. She is majoring in Education, and will be attending Northern Marianas College next semester as a sophomore.

"My plans for this summer are not as exciting as a typical teen's summer should be. In my opinion, it's not as bad as it seems. I will be working so it's not a total waste of time because I use my time wisely as I will earn money. I can treat myself to anything anytime I want to without having to ask my parents.

"I'm proud to be a working student and I'm sure my job will make my summer exciting because it's unique. It's home to all the rockers out there. Employee or not, it's a great experience," said the 18-year-old Pagarao.

Batallones

BETHANIE BATALLONES

Bethanie Batallones is an upcoming senior at Grace Christian Academy. She will be in the National Honor Society as its secretary next school year.

"Summer is all about having fun and relaxing so for my break I plan to go out as much as I can and spend as much time with my friends and my brothers: one who's leaving for the Navy, Renato, and one who's visiting for a couple of weeks, Bradwell," said 17-year-old Batallones.

"I also want to go to the Philippines because there is not much things to do here and everything is way overpriced. However, summer is also about being productive and helpful and since I'm reaching my final year in high school, I want to start researching available scholarships so that I can prepare essays and stop my habit of procrastinating. Finally, I want to get a job so I can stop asking my parents for gas money," she said.

ASHLEY BRICIA

Ashley Bricia had just completed her freshman year at Marianas High School. She sure knows how to keep herself busy, as she hates boredom.

"My summer plans are not really planned out. I really want to leave the island, at least for vacation, because it's going to be a long one for me. If I won't be able to leave, I plan to have a summer job because I don't like my summer to be lacking in excitement," said 14-year-old Bricia.

Bricia

KAY PARK

Kay Park is an upcoming junior of Marianas High School. She is currently an active member of the Thespian Society.

"The past school year, I have been active in a speech club of the International Thespian Society. I participated in every competition this year, and now I will be attending the Thespian Festival held in Lincoln, Nebraska from June 21 to June 28, 2008. It is truly a blessing to go on this trip along with many other students from different schools on Saipan. I will be representing the Northern Marianas Island as the costume designer. This trip will be a great experience for me and to those who are also going for their first time. I'm really excited about the trip also because I finally get to go off island. The heat and daily power outages are infuriating. I would not survive if I were to stay here for three months in the house with power outages. Thank God I'm not going to be back until Aug. 21!" said 16-year-old Park.

Park

"After the Thespian Festival, I will be flying to California to visit my relatives and friends. Hopefully, during the time I will be in California, I don't become a lazy person. So far, I haven't been as lazy as I was during the school year.

"During the summer, I know I'm going to go through change. I go through change every year. It's inevitable. Of the changes, I hope I gain more knowledge and fitness. I hope I don't forget the things I learned when I get back to school.

"What I mean by fitness is that I have gotten quite lazy the past year, and haven't made time to exercise. After canoe season, I didn't do much. I hope I become fit over the summer so that later in life, I wouldn't have to deal with health problems. Those are basically my goals for this summer," she added.

Tips for incoming college freshmen

Crystal Cabrera and Catherine Villagomez

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jacqueline_delacruz@saipantribune.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Hundreds of high school seniors were promoted in May to the next step in their educational journey. Although summer vacation had just started, most of these students are now preparing themselves for the new challenges ahead.

In this article, two Northern Marianas College students give high school graduates some tips on what to expect when one decides to take the leap to college. Both are taking summer classes and are working with the college's work-study program. Villagomez is from the Finance Office, while Cabrera works for CREES.

Catherine Villagomez is currently majoring in Accounting and Business Management at the Northern Marianas College. "I want to become a mathematician in the future," said 20-year-old Villagomez.

Her tips:

1. Search the right community college or university that you are interested in and is qualified for enrollment.

2. Go to the admissions and records section and get all the information you need (such as requirements), depending on the career you want to pursue.

3. Apply for any scholarship you're qualified for.

4. Ask your high school counselor to help you seek for the right community college/ university so they can help you get all the documents you need.

5. Check the advisers/counselor in that college/ university that you want for an orientation of the campus.

6. Talk to students on campus to get feedback.

Crystal Cabrera is currently majoring in Liberal Arts and Business in Northern Marianas College. "I want to become a nutritionist," said 18-year-old Cabrera.

Her tips:

1. Apply for college early.

2. Start applying for scholarships.

3. Research for majors that interests you.

4. Don't take breaks because you might lose momentum.

5. Start talking to school officials to get information.

Upward Bound hosts workshop

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Fifteen students participated in a recent Upward Bound workshop on note taking, time management and cultivating effective study habits.

The workshop gave the students knowledge about the importance of note taking, allowing one to review materials for exams, keeping one's attention, and eliminating the need to recopy notes later on.

The workshop also provided tips on how to take notes, edit notes, and review notes.

On study skills, workshop participants were taught how to prepare for tests using test prep cards. Study tools were also taught such as planning ahead of time.

The Upward Bound workshop happens once every two weeks, but sometimes happens once a week, depending on the availability of guest speakers.

The Upward Bound program started since 1983. It is a federally funded program sponsored by the United States Department of Education. It is designed to help high school kids prepare for college.

"It went well and was successful. Most of the participants showed up and attended," said Zenaida Javier, co-facilitator of the workshop.

Javier is also the Academic Advisement Coordinator for Upward Bound. Javier and Jane Tudela were the presenters at the workshop.

In this program, students mentor fellow students, receive tutoring with their high school studies, participate in a six-week summer enrichment program or a math/science summer program, take part in recreational activities, partake in career exploration activities, attend seminars, and go on field trips.

JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
Upward Bound guidance specialist Jane Tudela, center, poses with some of the UB students shortly after the workshop last Tuesday at the Northern Marianas College Student Center.

Nearly forgotten android helped put men in space

By BRENNA MALONEY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—"It was lying around in one of the warehouses. Nobody knew what it was," says Paul Ceruzzi, a curator at the National Air and Space Museum. "Someone said to me, 'Find out what it is or we're going to get rid of it.' "

The "it" in question looked like the Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz. Ceruzzi would later learn that this tin man played an important role in the design of spacesuits for U.S. astronauts.

In 1961, when President John F. Kennedy committed the nation to sending men to the moon before the end of the decade, the space agency, NASA, had to figure out how that would be done. One important task was to make spacesuits that could hold up in the brutal environment of space.

"Spacesuits were very new at the time, and no one knew how to make them," Ceruzzi says. "Some early designs were heavy and hard to move in."

Testing different models meant doing experiments that might be painful, tiring and possibly dangerous for a person. The space agency needed a stand-in.

NASA turned to a team of engineers led by Jozef Slowik at the Illinois Institute of Technology. They built an android for the job. (An android is a machine that looks like a person.)

"NASA builds robots all the time," Ceruzzi says, "but this is the only robot that NASA ever built that looks like a human being. In reality, they look like whatever they have to look like to do a job. This one, it had to replace a human being inside a spacesuit."

Slowik's android copied many of the joint motions of the human body. With each spacesuit design, the engineers put the android through its paces: bending, kneeling, swinging its limbs, grasping heavy tools.

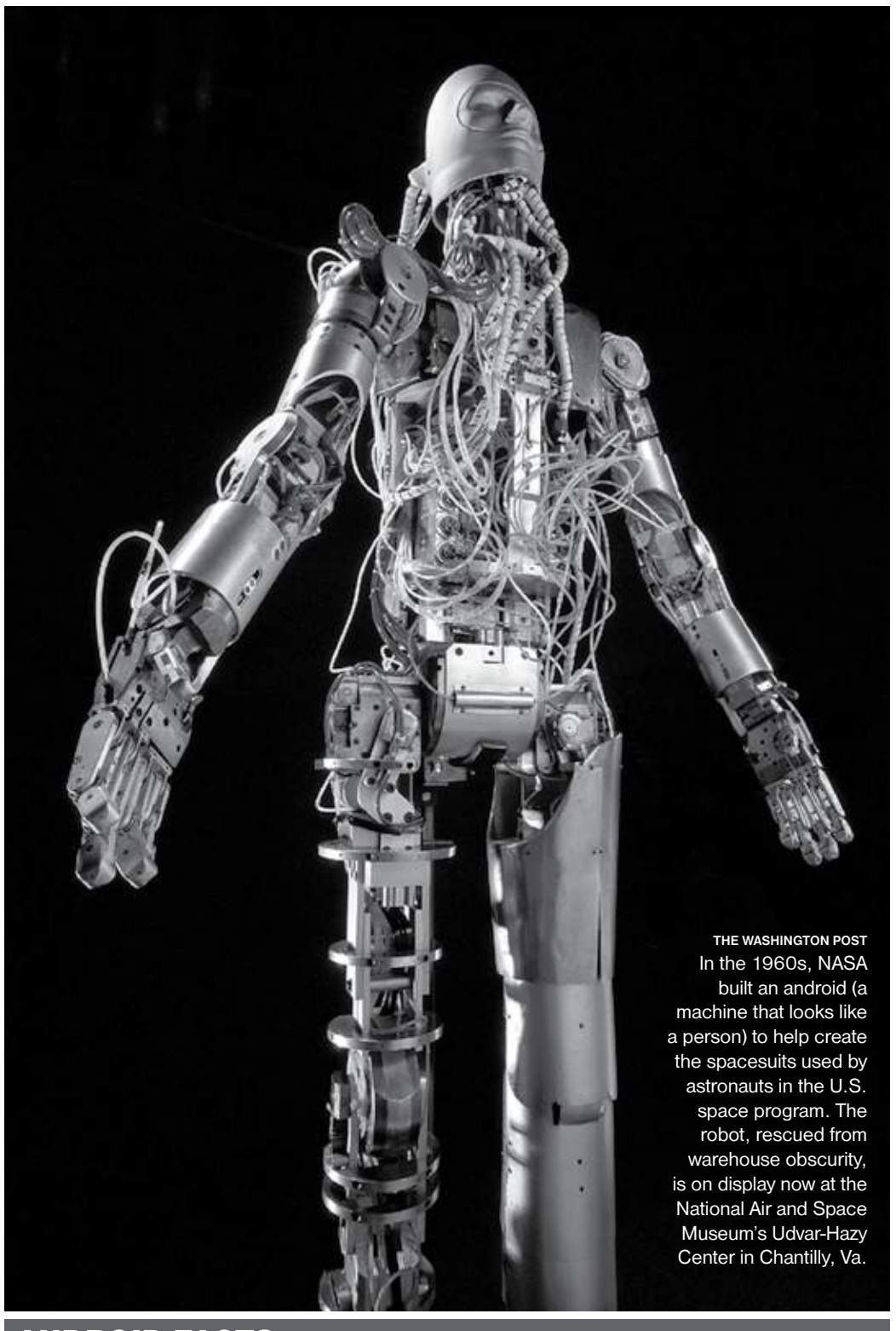
The android had sensors that measured force, "so it gave you feedback to let you know how hard it (was) to do certain things: how much strength (was) needed to turn your head, for example," Ceruzzi says.

Many fabrics and materials were tried. "In the vacuum of space, you need air pressure," he says. "If you didn't design it right, the spacesuit inflated."

That's what happened to Soviet cosmonaut Alexi Leonov in 1965. Leonov was the first person to walk in space outside a spacecraft. But when he tried to reenter the craft after 12 minutes spent floating outside, he couldn't fit through the entrance because his spacesuit had inflated. He had to release some of the air first.

NASA's test dummy was helpful, but not without its flaws.

The android was not a complex robot. It could not operate on its own. Instead, "it was remotely controlled by someone who twiddled a lot of knobs," Ceruzzi says.



THE WASHINGTON POST
In the 1960s, NASA built an android (a machine that looks like a person) to help create the spacesuits used by astronauts in the U.S. space program. The robot, rescued from warehouse obscurity, is on display now at the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va.

ANDROID FACTS

Android numbers: 5 feet 10 inches tall, 200 pounds.

Where to see it: James S. McDonnell Space Hangar at the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway in Chantilly, Va. For more information, log onto www.nasm.si.edu/udvar-hazy or call the Smithsonian's general information line at 202-633-1000.

When: Open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily; closed Dec. 25.

Fees: Admission is free. Parking costs $12 per vehicle until 4 p.m., after which it's free.

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Coo-coo for coconuts

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
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THE WASHINGTON POST
You can write an address on the outside of a coconut, slap on the correct U.S. postage and drop it in the mail. "Yes, coconuts are mailable as long as they are presented in a dry condition and not oozing fruit juice," said a U.S. Postal Service spokesman.

You've probably tasted coconut in cakes or cookies, but have you ever eaten raw coconut straight from the shell? You don't see too many whole coconuts (you can sometimes find them at the supermarket), but the meat inside this tropical nut is eaten by millions of people. In fact, the coconut is the most widely grown and used nut in the world, according to Jonathan Crane, a tropical-fruit expert at the University of Florida.

"Even I don't know all the different varieties," he said.

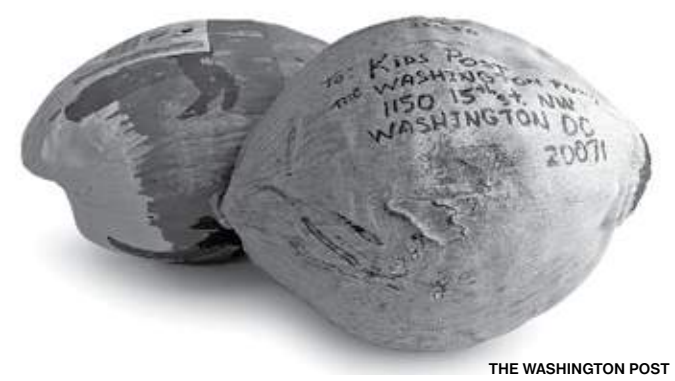
The coconut palm is sometimes referred to as the "Tree of Life" because it's useful from top to bottom. Except for the roots, every part of the coconut tree is harvested in the tropical areas where coconut palms are common. The milk is a refreshing drink (mainly from younger coconuts); the meat is eaten raw or dried and it can be pressed to extract coconut oil; the two hard outer shells are burned for fuel or made into utensils and crafts; the strawlike matting between the outer shells is used for potting plants or to make twine; the palm fronds are used to make thatched roofs and brooms; and the wood from old, unproductive trees is used for building.

That's pretty useful!

Here are more interesting facts about coconuts.

■ The meat inside a supermarket coconut is hard and crunchy. But in tropical countries, coconuts are often eaten when they are very young and the flesh is soft and jiggly. A big piece of shell is typically used to scoop out the sweet jelly, which is transparent and gradually gets whiter and harder as the coconut ages.

■ Coconut milk is sweet and waterlike but eventually dries out. Coconuts are quite nutritious! In fact, in the country of Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), which was recently devastated by a cyclone, many people drank coconut water after the storm because no fresh water was available.



THE WASHINGTON POST
When future president John F. Kennedy served in World War II as a U.S. Navy officer, his boat was rammed by an enemy ship. He and his men were stranded in the Solomon Islands in the Pacific Ocean. Kennedy carved a message on a coconut shell and gave it to some natives to deliver to a Navy base, leading to the crew's rescue.

Coconuts in History

■ When future president John F. Kennedy served in World War II as an officer in the U.S. Navy, his boat was rammed by an enemy ship. He and his men were stranded in the Solomon Islands in the Pacific Ocean. Kennedy carved a message on a coconut shell and gave it to some natives to deliver to a Navy base, leading to the crew's rescue.

■ Because coconut water is sterile and mixes easily with blood, it was safely used as an emergency transfusion liquid during World War II. That is, it was injected directly into the veins of patients who had lost a lot of blood and needed to replace it quickly.

Coconut Facts

■ Coconuts are native only to the South Pacific, but they were spread around the globe by explorers hundreds of years ago.

■ A coconut can survive months of floating in the ocean. When it washes up on a beach, it can germinate into a tree!

■ In the United States, you can write an address on the outside of a coconut, slap on the correct postage and drop the whole thing in the mail. Amazing! "Yes, coconuts are mailable as long as they are presented in a dry condition and not oozing fruit juice," said Dave Partenheimer, a spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service. He couldn't say how many are mailed each year, but too many wouldn't be good. "They don't work that well with the equipment," he said.

Rescued by natives, and a coconut

Navy Lt. John F. Kennedy and his boat crew were run down by a Japanese warship in World War II. It happened near the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. Stuck on an island surrounded by Japanese, Kennedy was found by friendly island natives. He picked up a coconut shell and carved into it: "NAURO ISL ... COMMANDER ... NATIVE KNOWS POS'IT ... HE CAN PILOT ... 11 ALIVE ... NEED SMALL BOAT ... KENNEDY"

Kennedy gave the note to the natives, who delivered it to the Allies. The next day the future president and his crew were rescued. President Kennedy had the shell preserved and kept it on his desk in the White House. You can see it at his presidential library and museum in Boston.

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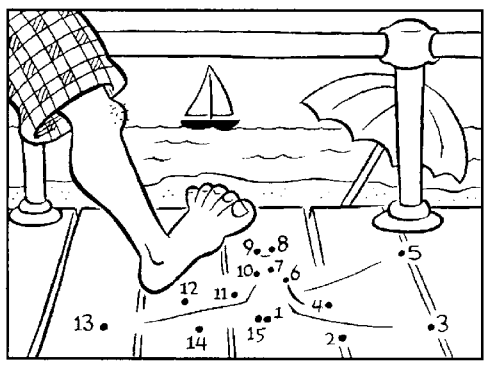


CONNECT THE DOTS to find out what are the best (or worst) slippers for the boardwalk.

Answer: Banana peels.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

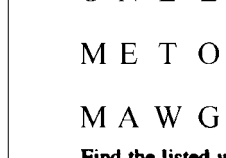
THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER

Starting with the given word at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with GABARDINE.

1. A cotton fabric (given).
2. Coating made with crumbs.
3. A recitation of written material.
4. Something won.
5. To condescend to give or grant.
6. To eat.
7. A deafening noise.
8. The best group.
9. Roman for one.

Answers (from the bottom up): Gabardine, breading, reading, gained, deign, dine, din, in (the "in group"), I.

HOW TO BECOME "TEACHER'S PET"!
"For extra credit, see if you can make four 4's equal 55!"



Answer: 44 + 44/4 = 55.

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "TALKER." See if you can replace these letters in the square so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. Time limit: 60 seconds.

T		A	W
A			
L		I	N
K			
E	R		

Answers (Across): Law, are, kin, eat. (Down): Lake, aria, went.

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Signs of illness in hamsters

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: One of my pet hamsters died just a week after I got it at the pet store. I would really like to know why it died, because the pet store would not tell me. The only clue I have is that it had a wet tail before it died. I'd like to get another hamster, but how do I know if I'm getting a healthy pet from the store?
-- Hamster Lover

DEAR HAMSTER LOVER: That's an important question, and one all potential hamster owners should pay attention to. Many, if not all, pet stores have "as is" policies regarding hamsters and other very small pets like goldfish, because so many of them fall ill or die soon after being purchased. But you certainly don't want to bring home a hamster that's already sick -- not only are you stuck with trying to make it well, but the illness can quickly spread among your other hamsters.

When purchasing a new hamster, look for these telltale signs of illness or injury:

- Wet tail (indicates diarrhea, a clear symptom of illness or worms)
- Lethargic, with dull eyes
- Huddles in one corner for a long time, doesn't respond quickly to being picked up or petted
- Runny nose and watery eyes
- Rough, matted or patchy fur
- Bites or scratches from other hamsters

If you notice any of these signs, don't buy that hamster, and notify store management so that it can isolate the sick hamsters from the healthy ones.

I also recommend that anyone wanting to keep a hamster collect as much information on caring for these small pets as possible. A smaller pet is not necessarily an easier pet to keep -- it depends entirely upon you for its health and welfare.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ The next time you're in New York City and feel like indulging yourself, you might want to consider stopping by the Wall Street Burger Shoppe. That's the fine establishment where you can purchase the city's most decadent -- and expensive -- hamburger. This luxury starts with a pure Kobe beef patty and is topped with aged Gruyere chesse, wild mushrooms, black truffles and foie gras, and the brioche bun is topped with flecks of gold leaf. The price tag for this extravagant indulgence? $175.

■ It was 17th-century Spanish writer Baltasar Gracian who made the following sage observation: "It is better to sleep on things beforehand than lie awake about them afterwards."

■ If you're like the average American, you eat roughly 17 pounds of potato chips every year.

■ If you've ever been laid off work, you know what a terrible experience it can be. Imagine, though, how much more traumatic it could have been if your erstwhile employer didn't even have the decency to tell you in person. That's exactly what Radio Shack did a couple of years ago, firing 400 of its employees via e-mail.

■ Do you have a matutinal routine? Unless you're a hard-core night owl, you probably do. "Matutinal" simply refers to something that occurs in the morning.

■ At one time, the game checkers was known as "chess for ladies."

■ If you're a man who shaves his face every day, you can figure that at an average of 10 minutes per shave, you spend 60 hours every year with a razor in your hand.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life -- happiness, freedom and peace of mind -- are always attained by giving them to someone else."

— General Peyton C. March

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MAGIC MAZE ● AMERICAN INDIAN TERMS

A S Q N L J G E C Z X V O T R
C R A D L E B O A R D P R N L
P J H E C A S Y P W V T E R P
S O N M L K I U G O E C H B Z
X I W W E N A G O H T U C S R
P O O W M H L N L H J L N I G
E D B V O T C A I Y G X A W U
M U P M A W T A S H Q N M C P
O N L L K R N I S A C C O M H
M E T O T J T E M U L A C L H
M A W G I W G F D A V I K C B

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Atlatl	Hogan	Moccasin	Travois
Calumet	Kachina	Potlach	Wampum
Comanchero	Kiva	Sachem	Wigwam
Cradle board	Long house	Totem	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	x		–		22
+		+		÷	
	x		–		27
÷		÷		+	
	–		x		18
2		4		17	

1 3 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

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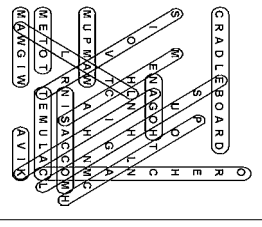
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	17		4		2
18	9	x	3	–	5
	+		÷		÷
27	1	–	7	x	4
	÷		+		+
22	8	–	5	x	6

Fly a patriotic windsock on the Fourth of July

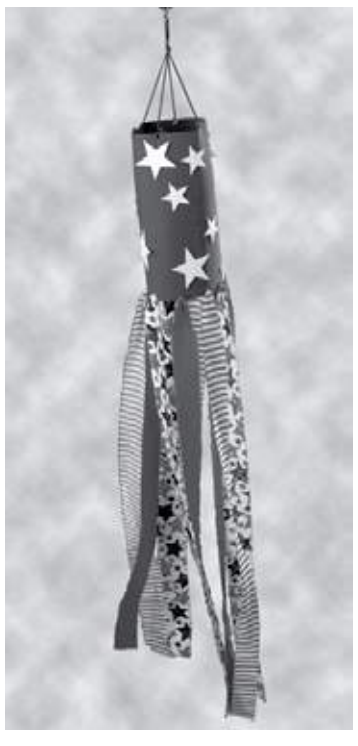
It's good to get out once in a while.

Out of the house.

Out of the neighborhood.

And maybe even out of the country.

That's exactly what I did a few weeks ago when I traveled to France, Spain, Sweden and Russia. The inspiring mix of countries made for distinctly different languages, food, dress, politics and people. No matter where I went, I was always reminded of what country I was in by the colorful national flags that flew in the foreign skies.



Fly your own "red white and blue" on the Fourth of July with this patriotic windsock that dances in the slightest summer breeze. With a little measuring, knotting, gluing and tearing, it's an easy-to-do, fun project for the whole family.

Here's how:

MAKE a cylinder for the top of the windsock by rolling a 12-inch-by-18-inch sheet of blue craft foam, overlapping the shorter sides and gluing them together. Let dry. (Nontoxic tacky glue dries quicker than white craft glue.)

CUT out stars from a sheet of white craft foam. Cookie cutters and stencils make great patterns. Glue the stars on the outside of the blue tube. For variety, make stars in large and small sizes.

PUNCH four holes an equal distance apart from each other at the top of the tube. Loop and knot a 22-inch length of cording or ribbon through one hole, then knot the other end through the hole across from it. Repeat with a second length in remaining two holes.

For a hanger, attach a metal loop onto both ribbons and knot in place.

TEAR nine strips of red, white and blue fabric into lengths of 2 inches by 39 inches for the tail. Punch nine holes, spaced about 2 inches apart, around the bottom of the tube. Slip each strip in a hole and knot.

Let your patriotic colors fly!

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Student wants to drop out of friendship with professor

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 38-year-old woman enrolled in night school. A favorite professor of mine is a 46-year-old woman for whom I had a great deal of respect. We had some mutual interests and became casual friends. We'd grab a cup of coffee now and then, and she'd call me at work occasionally to say "hi."

Over time, we double-dated with our husbands (who hit it off), going out to eat or see a movie.

It has now reached the point where my professor expects to have lunch with me two and three times a week. She singles me out in class as an obvious "favorite," and calls me daily at work. She gets mad if I skip a class and says she doesn't want to teach then. She has become rude and disrespectful to her husband, and spends more time and effort trying to be with me than with him.

Abby, I feel suffocated. My husband and I are the kind of people who respect the need for space. I can't handle a clingy friend. I sometimes wish I had never signed up for night school

SUFFOCATED STUDENT IN MADISON

DEAR SUFFOCATED: It appears your teacher has formed a crush on you. The woman may also have some unresolved emotional problems. Begin to extricate yourself by being less and less available for phone calls and lunch dates. Not everyone can accept personal calls during working hours, or make the time to indulge in involved conversations. You also have a right to lunch with others, or to have other plans. That is not a "rejection" of this new-found friend; it is creating boundaries, which you should begin doing immediately.

If your professor becomes punitive, discuss this with the head of the department or the dean of the school and ask if you can switch classes. This woman's behavior is not only unprofessional, but possibly unethical.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was widowed three years ago at the age of 40. A previous decade-long marriage ended in an amicable divorce. Since my husband's death, I have been engaged twice but have broken off both relationships for sound reasons. My most recent engagement was to a man who turned out not only to be manipulative and controlling, but also had an undisclosed mental illness.

Is it normal not to want another relationship? I'm enjoying the time and freedom to pursue my hobbies and friendships. Most men my age seem to have more emotional or financial baggage that I want to take on, and a "Me Tarzan, you Jane" attitude that I find unacceptable. Am I on the rebound, in denial or just self-fulfilled?

LOVING THE SINGLE LIFE

DEAR LOVING: You do not appear to be either on the rebound or in denial. You appear to be genuinely grateful for the good things in your life and in no hurry to encumber yourself. Those are attractive traits, and I predict that one of these days you will meet someone who recognizes it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: At sporting events and parades, when we rise for the national anthem, are women supposed to remove their hats?

A PATRIOT IN OHIO

DEAR A PATRIOT: No. According to "Emily Post's Etiquette," women's hats do not have to be removed during the national anthem.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

'Dark Knight' credits pay tribute to Ledger

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Heath Ledger is getting a fond tribute from his collaborators on "The Dark Knight." The end credits of the "Batman Begins" sequel include a farewell note to Ledger, who died in January from an accidental overdose of prescription drugs; and to special-effects technician Conway Wickliffe, who was killed last September in a stunt-car accident.

"In memory of our friends Heath Ledger & Conway Wickliffe," reads the tribute included in the credits, which went up Thursday on the Warner Bros. publicity Web site.

Ledger plays the villainous Joker in "The Dark Knight," who begins a reign of terror on Gotham City that pits him against conflicted hero Batman (Christian Bale).

Arriving in theaters July 18, the movie reteams Bale with director Christopher Nolan and returning co-stars Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman and Gary Oldman. Joining the cast are Aaron Eckhart and Maggie Gyllenhaal.

Beginning months before Ledger's death, his frenetic performance and demented-clown makeup have been a cornerstone of the marketing campaign for the film.

"I needed a phenomenal actor, but he also had to be someone unafraid of taking on such an iconic role," Nolan says in the production notes for "The Dark Knight." "Heath created something entirely original. It's stunning, it's captivating. ... It's going to blow people away."

AP
In this file photo originally released by Warner Bros., Heath Ledger portrays The Joker in a scene from "The Dark Knight."

Bill Murray's divorce is finalized in SC

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—Bill Murray and his wife of nearly 11 years are divorced. A judge in Charleston County signed off on the divorce agreement June 13, barely a month after Jennifer Butler Murray asked for the separation. The couple were married in July 1997.

The couple's four children will live with their mother, while the 57-year-old actor-comedian will have visitation rights and pay child support, according to court papers. Jennifer Murray also will get their home on Sullivans Island, S.C., and a second house in Hemet, Calif.

Other documents detailing the divorce were sealed at the couple's request.

The court papers were first obtained by the Web site TMZ.com.

Messages left Thursday for attorneys for the Murrays, who had a prenuptial agreement, weren't immediately returned.

In her original complaint, filed May 12, Jennifer Murray alleged that her husband abused her and was addicted to marijuana and alcohol.

The Post and Courier of Charleston obtained the complaint and attached prenuptial agreement before they were sealed. The prenuptial agreement requires Murray to pay his ex-wife $7 million within 60 days of the divorce.

Paris Hilton donates to children's hospital

Hilton

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Paris Hilton is making good on her promise to become a better person.

The 27-year-old socialite made an "extremely generous" donation toward the construction of a medical building at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, hospital officials said Thursday, although they did not specify the amount.

"The children I have met through my involvement with Childrens Hospital have truly touched my heart," Hilton said in a statement. "I am proud to make a donation and lend my name to the fundraising effort to help children who are facing terribly serious illnesses."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Donda West surgeon arrested in California for DUI

VALLEJO, Calif. (AP)—The plastic surgeon who operated on Kanye West's mother before she died last fall has been arrested on suspicion of drunken driving. Police said Dr. Jan Adams was seen using an off-ramp to get on a freeway early Thursday in the Northern California town of Vallejo, and was driving on a suspended license from a previous DUI. The former host of TV's "Plastic Surgery: Before and After" had operated on 58-year-old Donda West the day before she died of likely heart disease coupled with surgery complications. The state was investigating whether Adams' medical license should be revoked or suspended because of two previous alcohol-related arrests. Adams was scheduled for arraignment in Solano County Superior Court on Monday.

Lil Wayne to do the Voodoo

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Rapper Lil Wayne is the latest addition to the lineup for this year's Voodoo Experience in the rapper's native New Orleans. The musical celebration will feature dozens of acts on six stages in October. The lineup already includes R.E.M., Nine Inch Nails, Stone Temple Pilots, Erykah Badu and Joss Stone. Lil Wayne, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter Jr., scored the year's best-selling album sales debut this month, with 1 million copies sold of his new CD, "Tha Carter III." The Voodoo Experience, which is in its 10th year, will be held Oct. 24-26 at New Orleans' City Park behind the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Mindy McCready charged with violating probation

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (AP)—Mindy McCready has been arrested in Tennessee and charged with violating her probation. Authorities accuse the 32-year-old country singer of falsifying her community service records. Williamson County Sheriff's Department officer Charlotte Spencer says McCready turned herself in Monday, posted the $5,000 bond and was released two hours later. She is on probation for a 2004 drug charge. Her attorney, Lee Ofman, declined Thursday to comment on the new charge. A corrections official says McCready will go before the judge who sentenced her, and he will decide what, if any, action to take. McCready's court date wasn't immediately available. She had a number one single in 1996 with "Guys Do It All the Time."

Police: Ohio man accused of stalking teen singers

LANCASTER, Ohio (AP) -- Authorities have arrested a southeast Ohio man accused of stalking and threatening teen actress-singers Aly and AJ. Lancaster police say 42-year-old Rex Mettler is charged with felony menacing by stalking. Police say he made violent threats against 19-year-old Alyson Michalka and her 17-year-old sister, Amanda Michalka. Aly starred in the former Disney Channel series "Phil of the Future." Both appeared in the Disney Channel's 2006 movie "Cow Belles." No attorney is listed for Mettler. He is scheduled to be arraigned Friday in Fairfield County Municipal Court. A message left with a Disney spokeswoman wasn't immediately returned Thursday.

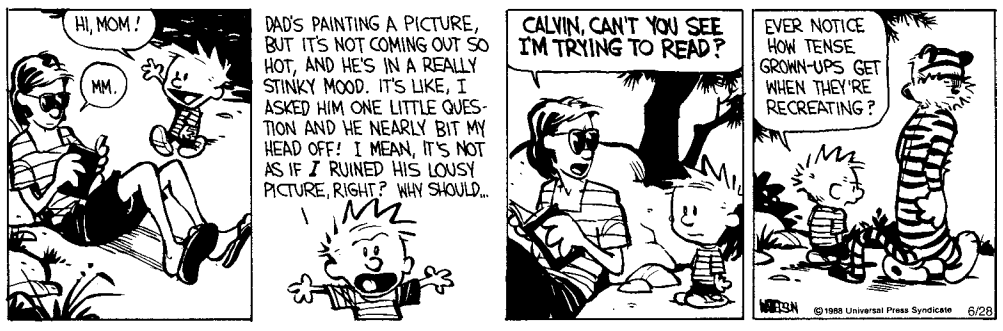
Wesley Snipes petitions court to leave country

OCALA, Fla. (AP)—Lawyers for Wesley Snipes are asking a Florida judge to let the 45-year-old actor leave the country while they appeal his three federal tax convictions. Snipes wants to work on two films, "Gallowwalker" and "Chasing the Dragon," in London and in Bangkok, Thailand, according to documents filed Wednesday in federal court. The documents say post-production editing of "Gallowwalker" is set to begin July 14th, and filming of "Chasing the Dragon" will start in September. Snipes was sentenced in April to three years in prison on three misdemeanor counts of willful failure to file his income tax returns. The government alleged that Snipes, star of the "Blade" trilogy, "White Men Can't Jump," "Jungle Fever" and other films, hasn't filed a tax return since 1998.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, MOM!
MM.
DAD'S PAINTING A PICTURE, BUT IT'S NOT COMING OUT SO HOT, AND HE'S IN A REALLY STINKY MOOD. IT'S LIKE, I ASKED HIM ONE LITTLE QUESTION AND HE NEARLY BIT MY HEAD OFF! I MEAN, IT'S NOT AS IF I RUINED HIS LOUSY PICTURE, RIGHT? WHY SHOULD...
CALVIN, CAN'T YOU SEE I'M TRYING TO READ?
EVER NOTICE HOW TENSE GROWN-UPS GET WHEN THEY'RE RECREATING?
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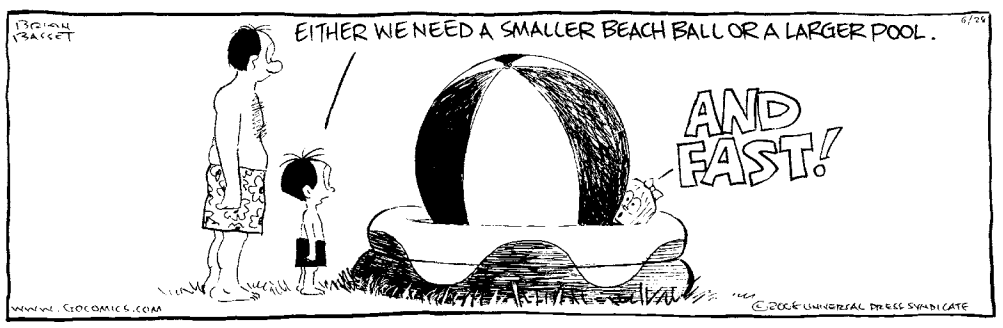
6/28

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

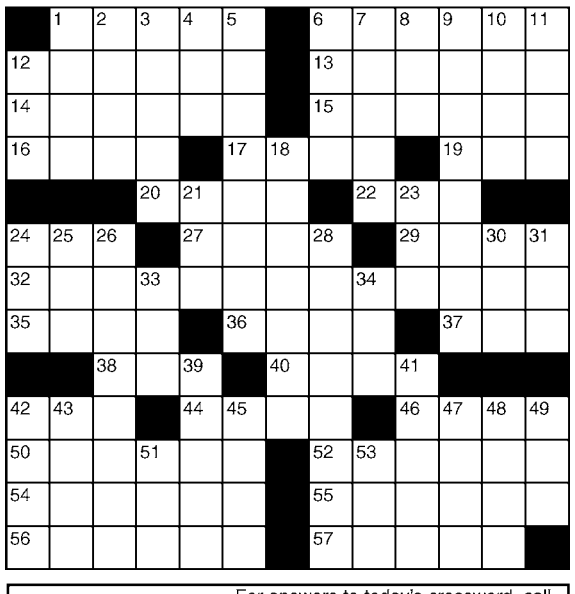
ACROSS
1 Dutch earthenware
6 Examined, with "out"
12 Type of mysticism (Var.)
13 Jipijapa hat
14 Brace
15 He flew too near the sun
16 "— Karenina"
17 Leave an impression
19 Volcano output
20 Nil
22 Eternity
24 Playwright Levin
27 Chinese gang
29 Thwart
32 Repeatedly
35 Eject
36 Snitch
37 Pop
38 Ump
40 Night light?
42 Calendar abbr.
44 Bakery worker, at times
46 Loosen
50 Site
52 Frightened
54 Ducked
55 Tenant
56 Indicate
57 Perspiration

DOWN
1 "Phooey!"
2 Black, in verse
3 Bolivian capital
4 Wintertime ailment
5 Decline gradually
6 — And Span
7 Hiding place
8 — budget
9 Not merely 52-Across
10 Ostriches' kin
11 Morse T
12 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
18 Survivor-take-all arrangement
21 Greek vowel
23 Frequently
24 "Monty Python" opener
25 Wardrobe malfunction
26 Cheese choice
28 Pentagon figures
30 "— Little Teapot"
31 Started
33 Ram's fan?
34 Old studio letters
39 Deboned strip
41 "Grey's Anatomy" extra
42 Ran like the wind
43 Peregrinate
45 Relinquish
47 Houston acronym
48 Regimen
49 Tribute in verse
51 Big bother
53 A handful

Solution time: 27 mins.

L	E	A	■	M	O	L	D	■	N	O	A	H
O	R	R	■	E	P	E	E	■	I	N	T	O
C	O	C	K	T	A	I	L	■	S	E	E	D
I	S	S	U	E	R	■	E	V	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	D	O	T	■	T	A	I	L	O	R
H	O	N	O	R	■	V	E	T	■	O	B	I
A	G	E	S	■	T	E	D	■	B	R	I	G
I	R	A	■	F	O	X	■	B	E	E	T	S
R	E	T	A	I	L	■	O	A	F	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	N	S	■	S	W	O	O	S	H
L	O	S	T	■	T	A	I	L	G	A	T	E
E	P	I	C	■	O	G	E	E	■	T	O	R
E	T	C	H	■	Y	A	R	D	■	S	P	A

Yesterday's answer 6-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Burton, 38; John Cusack, 42; Mary Stuart Masterson, 42; Kathy Bates, 60

Happy Birthday: The more willing you are to do for others this year, the better positioned you will become. Making a move or taking a trip will teach you about different cultures or ways of doing things. Rely on your own instincts and resources to make your decisions. Experience will be your wisdom. Your numbers are 3, 15, 17, 28, 37, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't give in to someone's bullying or emotional gibberish or you will be angry with yourself for your lack of courage. You can keep the upper hand by being civil and coming up with solutions that should work for everyone involved. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Expect someone to withhold information from you. Do your own research, ask questions and make changes if it will protect you emotionally and financially. Turn a blind eye to the requests and responsibilities being dumped on you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Focus on money, budgeting and saving. If you are going to spend, put your cash into something that brings a return. A part time job will help you save for something that will bring you security. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You can call in favors, form a partnership and make plans to advance financially. Love is on the rise so don't forget to spend a little time with someone you care for intimately. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): When you think you have things figured out, someone will pull the rug out from under you. Information will change quickly and, if you want things to pan out, you must stay on top of the status of whatever it is you are trying to do. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Attend an event that will teach you something new and you will learn more about yourself as well. Your understanding and ability to see the benefit of doing things differently will open unusual doors. Reexamine your past or revisit an old relationship. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't make a decision based on your emotions or you will have regrets. Put your time, effort and money into your security and the comforts of your home. Once you have a plan in place, you can relax. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let your emotions confuse you about what you need to do, where you have to go and who needs your time and help. Organize your schedule but leave some time to spend with a loved one. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Anger will mount if you become too competitive or take something that is supposed to be fun too seriously. Relax and let things unfold naturally or you will lose a friendship you cherish. Travel will cost you dearly. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't go crazy spending on someone to impress him or her. Instead, display your smart spending policy and see the reaction you get. A good relationship shouldn't be based on what you offer but merely on who you are. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone will try to trap you in a lie or get you to divulge information you should keep to yourself. Don't give in to anyone who is sneaky or trying to make you look bad. Anger will be your demise, so don't go there. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Show everyone how fast, unique and powerful you can be when you apply yourself. Be a participant and you will get the help you need to accomplish your goals. Present and promote your ideas but refrain from giving away too much. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are firm in your convictions and determined to follow the path you feel is most righteous. You are sensitive, kind and just and judge everyone around you by performance.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1		3			
		7		5				
		9				4	2	
9								2
	3		7		2		8	
5								9
	5	8				1		
				7		6		
			3		9			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	4	8	5	7	2	3	9
5	8	7	2	3	9	1	6	4
9	2	3	4	1	6	7	8	5
8	3	9	6	4	1	5	2	7
7	5	2	9	8	3	4	1	6
4	6	1	7	2	5	3	9	8
1	9	6	5	7	2	8	4	3
2	7	8	3	9	4	6	5	1
3	4	5	1	6	8	9	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ENCRYPTION DEVICES **Solution: 7 letters**

N	L	A	I	T	N	E	D	I	F	N	O	C	P	L
C	O	P	Y	W	O	R	K	V	S	A	V	E	D	E
G	N	I	K	N	A	B	O	P	E	N	T	R	S	N
O	M	H	T	U	S	I	G	N	O	I	R	A	E	N
V	E	C	G	A	C	C	O	U	N	T	H	W	D	A
E	T	N	D	E	M	S	I	T	E	C	S	T	O	H
R	S	T	I	R	B	R	E	C	R	L	S	F	C	C
N	Y	S	S	L	E	R	O	U	O	A	L	O	C	K
M	S	E	K	C	N	T	P	F	C	S	C	S	O	P
E	O	C	O	E	K	O	A	D	N	S	T	E	U	R
N	L	R	T	G	R	C	A	D	M	I	T	B	E	O
T	D	E	H	T	L	O	A	D	P	F	L	T	N	T
I	A	T	G	R	R	W	A	R	N	I	N	G	O	E
M	E	L	I	B	O	M	S	K	C	E	H	C	H	C
E	R	A	L	M	E	C	N	A	V	D	A	S	P	T

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Account, Admit, Advance, Banking, Brits, Broadcast, Channel, Checks, Chip, Classified, Codes, Confidential, Copy, Cost, Crack, Data, Date, Disk, Enter, Government, Guard, Information, Internet, Light, Load, Lock, Mobile, Online, Open, Phone, Port, Protect, Public, Purchase, Read, Record, Saved, Secret, Ship, Sign, Site, Software, Sold, Stop, System, Time, Trace, Voice, Warning, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Overlap

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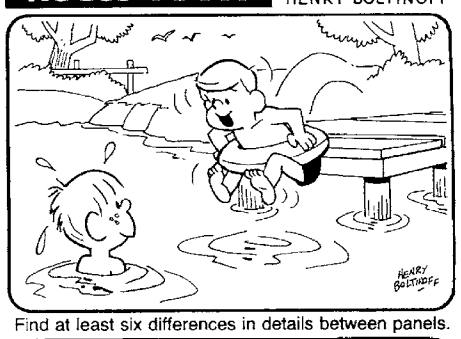
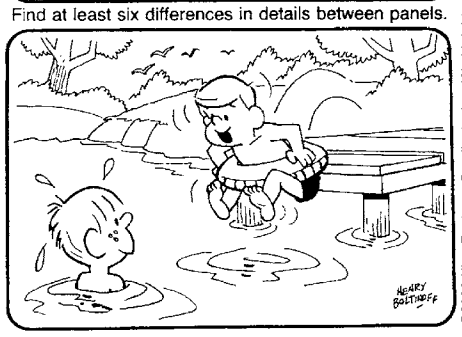
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Dimensions: 1. Trailer door is unlevel. 2. Fence is missing. 3. Bird has been added. 4. More bushes are on shore. 5. Tree has second limb. 6. Boy's nose is larger.

Wishing Well®

3	2	3	4	7	3	8	7	5	7	6	3	4
A	V	D	R	P	A	S	L	S	A	A	P	O
8	5	8	5	3	7	2	3	2	7	4	3	7
E	E	C	E	T	N	I	T	S	C	M	O	A
4	6	4	2	6	5	4	2	4	8	4	7	6
A	C	N	I	T	K	T	T	I	U	C	R	I
7	4	8	2	8	7	4	3	5	4	2	4	5
E	I	R	O	E	F	M	L	A	P	R	U	D
8	2	4	2	7	8	6	2	7	2	3	8	2
I	A	L	R	U	N	V	R	L	I	I	L	V
5	4	2	7	2	4	7	3	4	3	6	8	6
V	S	E	L	S	E	Y	F	S	E	I	I	T
5	6	8	6	8	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	5
E	Y	F	H	E	N	I	T	G	U	H	R	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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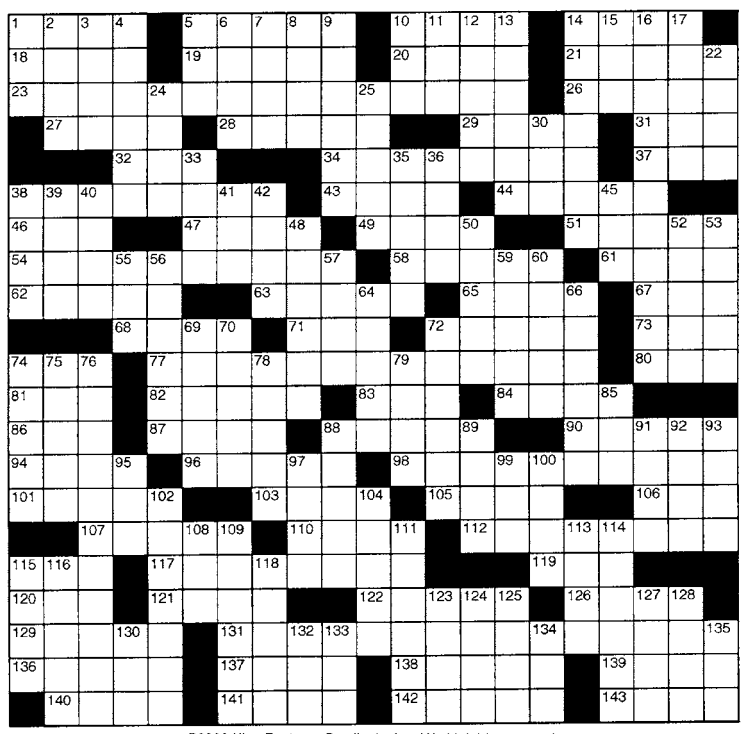
Super Crossword — ROSE GARDEN

ACROSS

1 "— it the truth?"
5 Restrain
10 Conduit fittings
14 Active volcano
18 "The Green —" ('56 hit)
19 Victorian ornament
20 Rachel's sister
21 TV's "The Wonder —"
23 Guns n' Roses hit
26 — nous
27 Soprano Gluck
28 "— a day's work"
29 Sleuth Nancy
31 Herriman's "Krazy —"
32 Mythical monster
34 In flight
37 Adjective suffix
38 One of "The Three Tenors"
43 Rock's — & the Gang
44 Pine
46 Kimono cummerbund
47 Interrogates
49 Cranny's companion
51 Toomey or Philbin
54 Rose Nylund's portrayer
58 Okefenokee, for one
61 Skin problem
62 Irwin of "The Crocodile Hunter"
63 '78 Peace Nobelist
65 Pestiferous person
67 Unmatched
68 Went like hotcakes
71 Apprehend
72 Cumin or coriander
73 Stretch the truth
74 Health concern
77 Billy Rose song
80 Organ of equilibrium
81 Poetic pot
82 Reference volume
83 Patriotic org.
84 Prepare prunes
86 Bar supply
87 Linguist Chomsky
88 Scope
90 Unbroken
94 "Divine Comedy" figure
96 Caroline, to Ted
98 "The Name of the Rose" author
101 Send the money
103 Salt serving
105 — Alto, CA
106 Dover's st.
107 Fight site
110 Temporary wealth?
112 Butcher's offering
115 "The — and I" ('47 film)
117 "Fait —"
119 Ending for "auction"
120 Sought office
121 Penny or peseta
122 Wrong
126 Architect Saarinen
129 Conductor Seiji
131 Rose McGowan movie
136 Murcia mister
137 Take — the chin
138 Spring for
139 Actress Ward
140 Live on lettuce
141 Bean on the bean
142 Hope's "The Prisoner of —"
143 North Carolina campus

DOWN

1 Pitches
2 Where the tall corn grows
3 Gallagher of Oasis
4 Aftershock
5 New Deal agcy.
6 "Very funny!"
7 Runner Zatopek
8 Room without a view?
9 Alaskan bear
10 Shady character?
11 Wahine's wreath
12 Joe of "Dr. Quinn"
13 '62 Four Seasons hit
14 Glasses
15 Dress size
16 "Ramblin' Rose" singer
17 Stage backdrop
22 Clockmaker Thomas
24 Grocer's measure
25 Tearjerker?
30 Vane letters
33 Gullet
35 Perch
36 Run through
38 Male swans
39 Help a hood
40 Formal ceremony
41 — blond
42 Goes downhill fast?
45 Stephen of "Interview with the Vampire"
48 Loses a lap
50 Phi Beta —
52 79 Down's homeland
53 Passover meal
55 Watching machines?
56 Petty officer
57 Dairy-case purchase
59 "Upstairs, Downstairs" extras
60 Ornamental loop
64 Gulf
66 Most revolutionary
69 Divulge
70 — Lama
72 Cocktail ingredient
74 It makes candy dandy
75 Austen title start
76 "The Rose Tattoo" actress
78 Christened
79 "Elephant Boy" star
85 Wine and dine
88 Moral man?
89 Stowe sight
91 A swan was her swain
92 Summertime treats
93 Lamebrain
95 Russian space station
97 Tranquil
99 Lilly of pharmaceuticals
100 Morning wear
102 4 p.m. vehicle?
104 Muslim dietary term
108 Sgt. or cpl.
109 Like lemons
111 WWII admiral
113 Shorten a sail
114 Threat words
115 Desire deified
116 Looked longingly
118 — a customer
123 Concerning
124 Lightweight gun
125 Large herring
127 Whirl
128 Christiania, today
130 Affliction
132 Wolfram — Eschenbach
133 Squid's squirt
134 "Wings" abbr.
135 Solo of "Star Wars"



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Who wrote the coming-of-age novel "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn"?
2. HISTORY: In what year did the United States establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China?
3. ADVERTISING: What brand of painkiller did actress Patricia Neal endorse in TV commercials?
4. SPACE: Who was the only astronaut to fly in the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo manned spaceflight programs?
5. DISCOVERIES: Who was the first person to explain correctly how the circulatory system works?
6. ENTERTAINERS: How many children were in the Osmond family?
7. MUSIC: What was the theme song of "An Officer and a Gentleman"?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the silkworm's sole source of food?
9. ANATOMY: Where are the triceps muscles located?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What does the "S." stand for in Harry S. Truman's name?

Answers

1. Betty Smith
2. 1979
3. Anacin
4. Wally Schirra
5. William Harvey
6. Nine. Seven of them became singers.
7. "Up Where We Belong"
8. Mulberry leaves
9. On the back of the arms
10. Nothing. It's just the initial "S."

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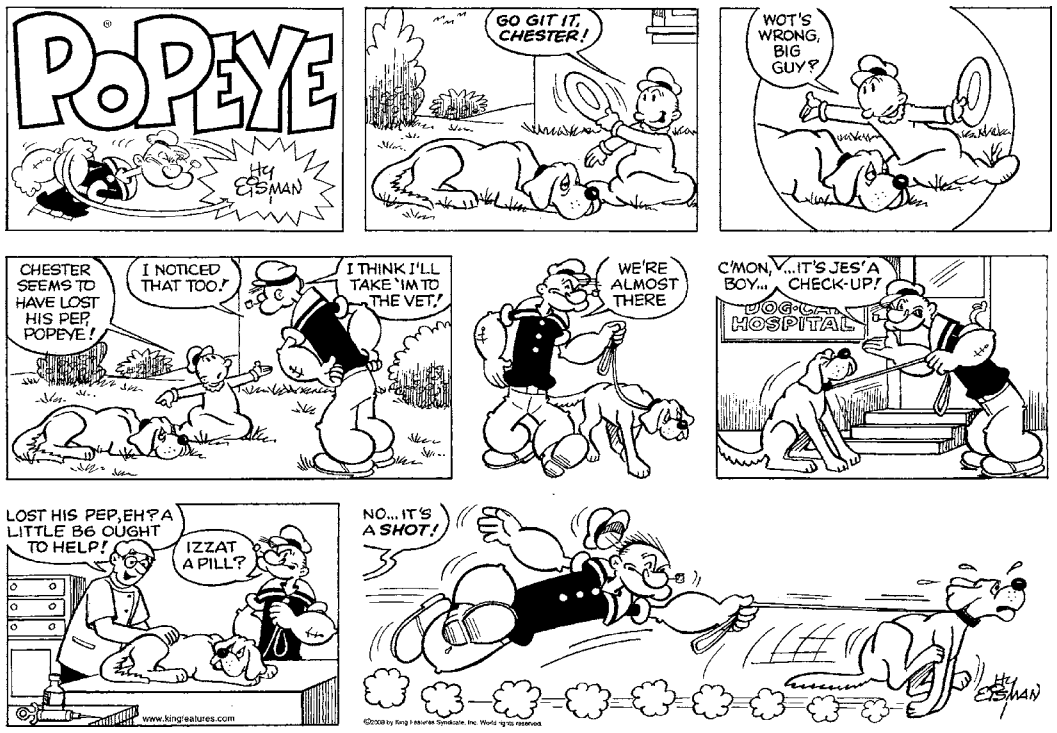
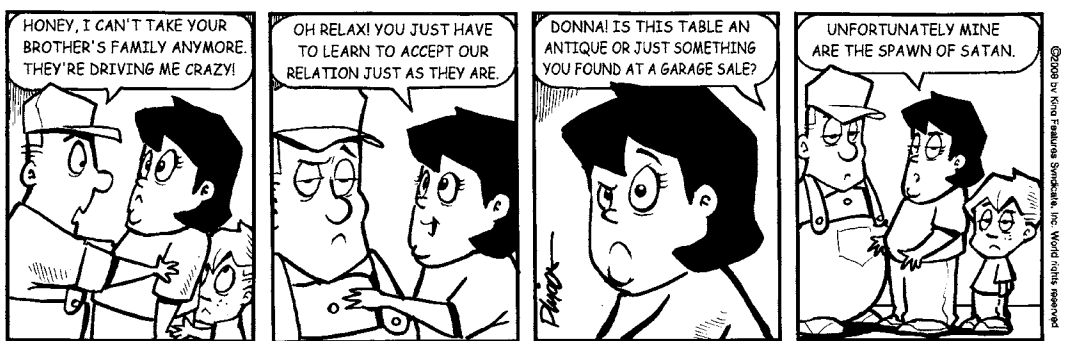
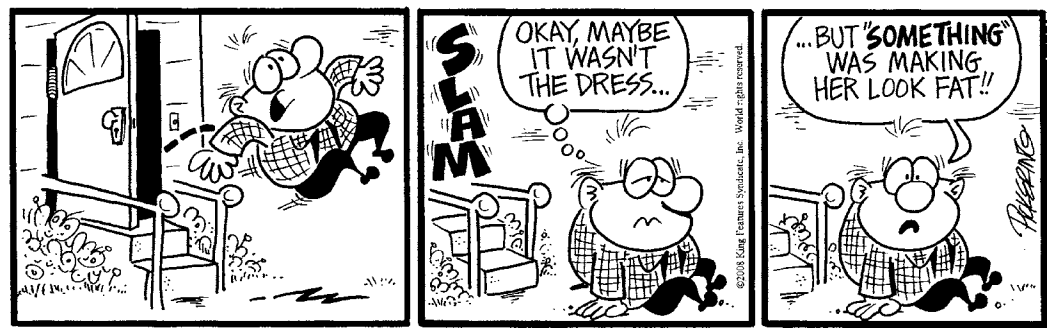
Saturday's Answers

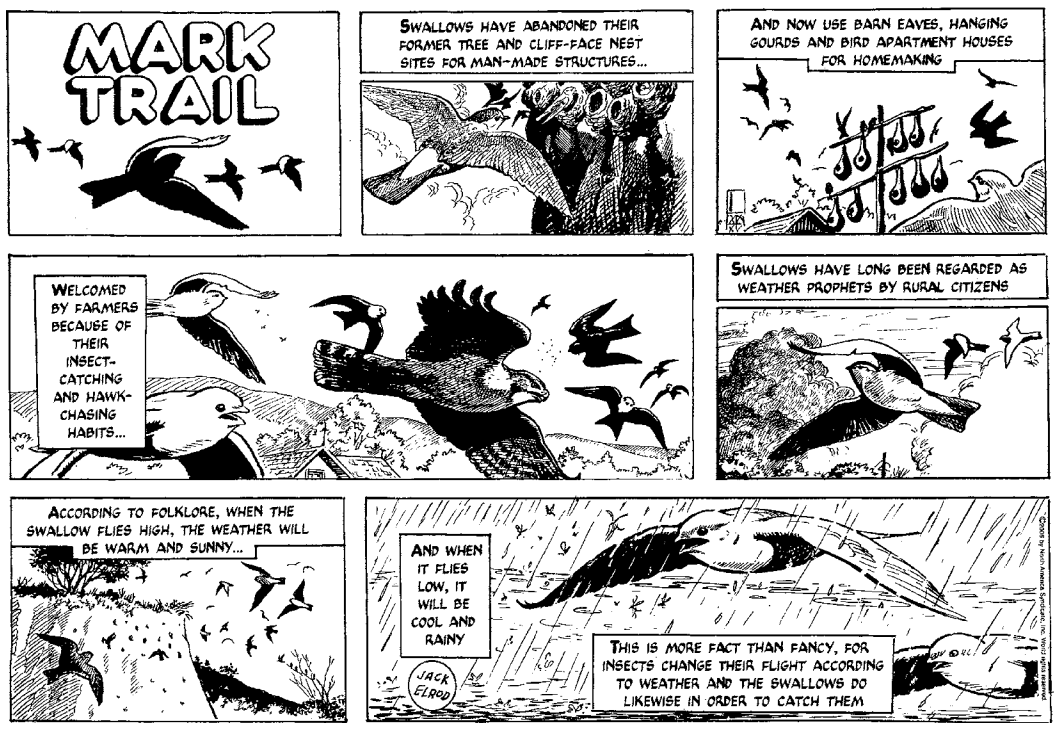

POPEYE
HY EISMAN
GO GIT IT, CHESTER!
WOT'S WRONG, BIG GUY?
CHESTER SEEMS TO HAVE LOST HIS PEP, POPEYE!
I NOTICED THAT TOO!
I THINK I'LL TAKE 'IM TO THE VET!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE
C'MON, V... IT'S JES'A CHECK-UP!
DOG-CAT HOSPITAL
LOST HIS PEP, EH? A LITTLE B6 OUGHT TO HELP!
IZZAT A PILL?
NO... IT'S A SHOT!
www.kingfeatures.com

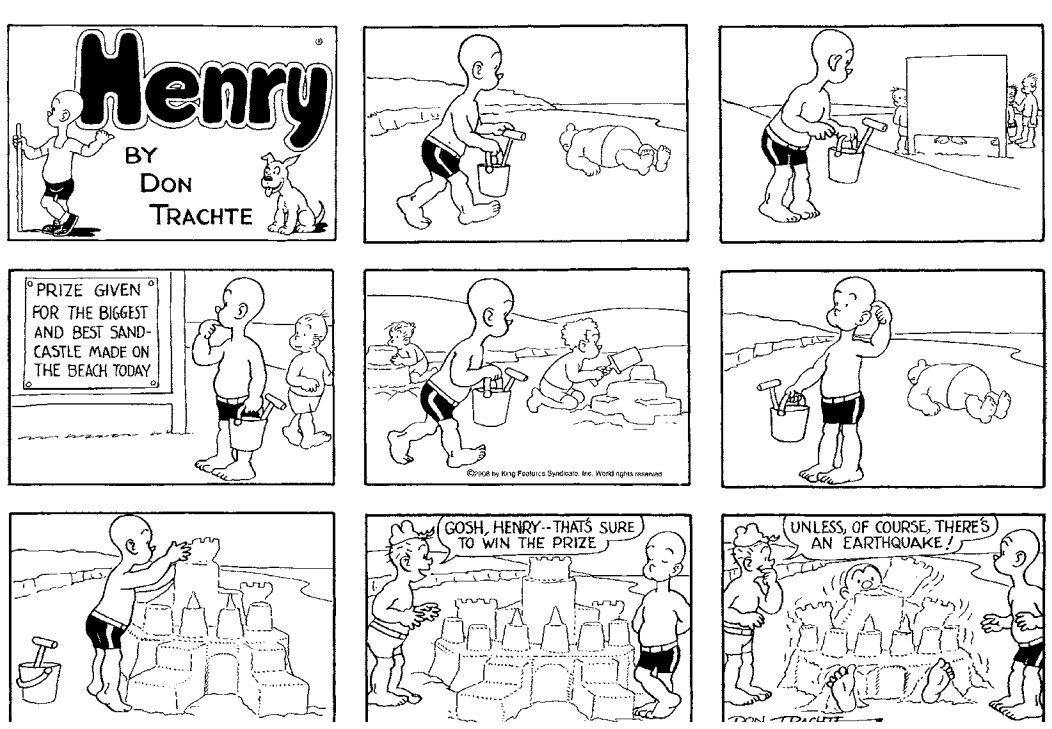
Amber Waves — by Dave T. Phipps


HONEY, I CAN'T TAKE YOUR BROTHER'S FAMILY ANYMORE. THEY'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY!
OH RELAX! YOU JUST HAVE TO LEARN TO ACCEPT OUR RELATION JUST AS THEY ARE.
DONNA! IS THIS TABLE AN ANTIQUE OR JUST SOMETHING YOU FOUND AT A GARAGE SALE?
UNFORTUNATELY MINE ARE THE SPAWN OF SATAN.

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering




MARK TRAIL
SWALLOWS HAVE ABANDONED THEIR FORMER TREE AND CLIFF-FACE NEST SITES FOR MAN-MADE STRUCTURES...
AND NOW USE BARN EAVES, HANGING GOURDS AND BIRD APARTMENT HOUSES FOR HOMEMAKING
WELCOMED BY FARMERS BECAUSE OF THEIR INSECT-CATCHING AND HAWK-CHASING HABITS...
SWALLOWS HAVE LONG BEEN REGARDED AS WEATHER PROPHETS BY RURAL CITIZENS
ACCORDING TO FOLKLORE, WHEN THE SWALLOW FLIES HIGH, THE WEATHER WILL BE WARM AND SUNNY...
AND WHEN IT FLIES LOW, IT WILL BE COOL AND RAINY
JACK ELROD
THIS IS MORE FACT THAN FANCY, FOR INSECTS CHANGE THEIR FLIGHT ACCORDING TO WEATHER AND THE SWALLOWS DO LIKEWISE IN ORDER TO CATCH THEM


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
PRIZE GIVEN FOR THE BIGGEST AND BEST SAND-CASTLE MADE ON THE BEACH TODAY
GOSH, HENRY--THAT'S SURE TO WIN THE PRIZE
UNLESS, OF COURSE, THERE'S AN EARTHQUAKE!

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2006 Mitsubishi Lancer Ralli, 4-cyl., blue, 14,700 mileage. $9,500. Contact 287-6077/234-6019

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ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
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Classified Ads

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Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

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Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Rose, Beasley, Mayo go 1-2-3 in NBA draft

NEW YORK (AP)—Derrick Rose is going home, and a record crowd of freshmen are following him to the NBA. The Chicago Bulls selected Rose, who grew up on the city's South Side, with the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft Thursday night, choosing the Memphis guard over Kansas State forward Michael Beasley.

With Beasley going second to Miami and Minnesota picking O.J. Mayo at No. 3, college freshmen made up the first three picks for the first time in draft history.

"We actually talked about this earlier," Beasley said. "We all grew up together and we all grew up playing against each other and we all made a pact together that we would all be here. Just to see it all fall into place and see it all happen is kind of crazy."

Five of the first seven players selected were freshmen, also an NBA record. It was also a big night for the Pac-10 Conference, which had five of the first 11 picks.

Rose led the Tigers to the national championship game in his lone college season. The Bulls opted for the point guard's playmaking ability over the scoring and rebounding of Beasley, who ranked in the top three in the nation in both categories.

Rose is the Bulls' first No. 1 overall selection since they grabbed Elton Brand in 1999. He's the second straight freshman taken with the top pick, following Portland's Greg Oden last year.

The 6-foot-3 guard put on a red Bulls cap, hugged some supporters, including Memphis coach John Calipari, and shook hands with Beasley, seated at a nearby table, before walking onto the stage to meet NBA commissioner David Stern.

"I was a little nervous when they came back out, but I always had that in mind that I want to be No. 1," Rose said. "So it was great hearing my name and being the No. 1 pick."

Rose should be an upgrade over Kirk Hinrich, who now could be traded, and gives the Bulls another option if they don't re-sign guard Ben Gordon.

AP

NBA commissioner David Stern, left, poses with number one draft pick Derrick Rose, who was picked by the Chicago Bulls, during the first round of the NBA basketball draft, Thursday, June 26, 2008 in New York.

Expected to contend for a division title, the Bulls instead stumbled to a 33-49 record and eventually replaced two coaches. But with just a 1.7 percent chance, they won last month's draft lottery, giving them a chance to quickly return to the playoffs.

"It feels great to go in and compete," Rose said. "I'm just blessed to be in that position right now, because a lot of people aren't. And just knowing that we are a few pieces away from really contending as a team, it just makes me happy."

Miami settled for Beasley at No. 2, even though he wasn't sure if the Heat would go for Mayo instead. Beasley averaged 26.2 points, third in the nation, and topped Division I with 12.4 rebounds per game. But with questions about his size—he may be 2 inches shorter than the 6-foot-10 he's listed at—the Bulls may not have believed he could play the 4 spot in the NBA.

After Mayo's selection, UCLA guard Russell Westbrook was the first non-freshmen taken, going fourth to the Seattle SuperSonics - with new teammate and reigning Rookie of the Year Kevin Durant standing and applauding the pick from the back.

Kevin Love gave UCLA consecutive picks, going to Memphis at No. 5. The New York Knicks followed with Italian forward Danilo Gallinari, whose father played with new coach Mike D'Antoni overseas. Fans in Madison Square Garden weren't impressed, booing loudly.

"It's part of the game, all the players have got to hear this," Gallinari said. "Not every time can you hear good things. It's normal."

Indiana guard Eric Gordon became the fifth freshman taken, going to the Los Angeles Clippers at No. 7. West Virginia's Joe Alexander, whose stock began to rise after a strong run at Madison Square Garden in the Big East tournament, went to Milwaukee with the next pick.

Charlotte gave new coach Larry Brown a point guard, taking D.J. Augustin of Texas with the ninth pick. New Jersey took Stanford center Brook Lopez at No. 10, and Arizona's Jerryd Bayless joined fellow Pac-10 guards Mayo and Westbrook by going 11th to Indiana.

Bayless' rights were later traded to Portland along with Ike Diogu for the rights to Brandon Rush, the No. 13 pick from national champion Kansas, Jarrett Jack and Josh McRoberts. Rush's agent, Mark Bartelstein, told The Associated Press about the deal shortly after Rush was taken.

The Pacers also had a proposed trade with the Toronto Raptors. Indiana would send six-time All-Star forward Jermaine O'Neal to Toronto for T.J. Ford, center Rasho Nesterovic, the 17th pick in the draft and a player to be determined.

Sacramento pulled a surprise at No. 12 with Rider forward Jason Thompson, the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference player of the year and the first senior taken. Golden State grabbed LSU forward Anthony Randolph—yet another freshman—with the 14th and final lottery pick.

Robin Lopez joined twin brother Brook in the NBA when Phoenix chose him at No. 15. That started a run of big men in which Philadelphia took Florida's Marreese Speights, Toronto picked Roy Hibbert of Georgetown at No. 17, and Washington drafted Nevada 7-footer JaVale McGee with the 18th pick.

After taking guards earlier, Seattle and Charlotte both went big with their second first-round picks. The Bobcats selected French center Alexis Aninca at No. 20 and the Sonics took Congo's Serge Ibaka four picks later.

Darrell Arthur of Kansas was the final player in the green room, lasting until the 27th spot, where New Orleans grabbed him. The Hornets already agreed to send his rights to Portland for cash in a deal that is awaiting league approval.

NBA champion Boston chose J.R. Giddens of New Mexico with the 30th and final pick of the first round.

Nets trade Jefferson to Bucks for Yi, Simmons

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The New Jersey Nets decided to part ways with the second-leading scorer in franchise history, dealing Richard Jefferson to Milwaukee hours before the draft Thursday for forwards Yi Jianlian and Bobby Simmons.

"We certainly gave up a good player, but to get a good player you have to give up a good player. With Yi, we feel his upside is very up," Nets president Rod Thorn said. "We feel strongly he's going to be a real good player for us."

No draft picks were swapped in the trade.

Milwaukee has been looking to rid itself of several bloated contracts and decided it was worth trading the rookie that former general manager Larry Harris selected with the No. 6 pick last year along with the rest of Simmons' contract.

But the Bucks had to add more salary to do it, taking on the rest of Jefferson's deal, three more years at $42.4 million.

"We inherited a little bit of a salary predicament coming into this job and really what we've done today has not changed anything we've done for the next two seasons," new general manager John Hammond said. "In the third season, we will have an issue to deal with, but I think by that time, we'll have plenty of flexibility to move some pieces if necessary."

Harris was let go in March and Hammond is looking to fill several spots as the team tumbled to a 26-56 finish. The Bucks selected versatile forward Joe Alexander with the No. 8 pick, and Jefferson provides veteran leadership to a team desperately seeking winners in the locker room.

"Richard Jefferson is a hardworking, proven, dynamic performer at the forward position," Hammond said. "He's an aggressive player with terrific credentials over his career. He's been a winner, having gone to the playoffs in six of his seven seasons, and we're excited to bring him to Milwaukee."

Jefferson, second in franchise scoring to Buck Williams, gets a chance to team with Michael Redd and is not a defensive liability. He's also a proven scorer, averaging 22.6 points per game last season.

Wolves trade Mayo to Memphis for Love

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves have traded No. 3 pick O.J. Mayo to the Memphis Grizzlies for Kevin Love in an eight-player, late-night blockbuster long after the NBA draft concluded.

A person with knowledge of the deal confirmed it to The Associated Press, speaking on the condition on anonymity because the trade had yet to be officially announced.

The Timberwolves also received shooter Mike Miller and frontcourt retreads Brian Cardinal and Jason Collins from Memphis in exchange for the draft rights to Mayo, forward Antoine Walker and guards Marko Jaric and Greg Buckner.

The deal allows the Timberwolves to dump Walker, who was unhappy riding the bench on a young team, and Jaric's contract, which has three years and more than $21 million remaining.

Miller also fills a huge hole on the team as a perimeter shooter and gives them Love, a player who can play down low next to Al Jefferson on a formidable young front line.

The Grizzlies, in turn, get a dynamic guard in Mayo who was widely rated the third-best player in the draft behind Memphis guard Derrick Rose and Kansas State forward Michael Beasley, who went first and second, respectively.

Timberwolves fans will likely be reminded of another lottery-swapping move two years ago, when Minnesota selected Brandon Roy, then traded him to Portland for Randy Foye and cash.

Roy went on to become rookie of the year in 2006-07 and an All-Star last season, while Foye has struggled with injuries while showing promise as a floor leader and playmaking perimeter threat.

With Foye and Rashad McCants—two smallish scoring guards—already on the roster, the Wolves started their evening by drafting the 6-foot-5 Mayo out of USC with the third pick.

Memphis took Love, a fundamentally sound 6-foot-10 power forward from UCLA, with the fifth overall pick.

Despite the apparent similarities between Mayo, Foye and Rashad McCants, assistant GM Fred Hoiberg told hundreds of fans gathered at Target Center for a draft party that he thought Mayo would fit in just fine with the guard-heavy Timberwolves.

"We thought there was a realistic chance Miami would take him at No. 2," Hoiberg said of the Heat, who chose Kansas State forward Michael Beasley. "We think that he'll come in and be able to help us out right away."

Hoiberg raved about Mayo's outside shooting and competitive spirit, calling him "a complete player, a complete person" and someone who can "come in and be able to help us out right away."

It turns out that Mayo helped them for about four hours.

McHale and the Wolves brass sat sequestered in the team's draft room for more than two hours after the draft concluded, hammering out the particulars of the deal.

Collins only has one year left on his contract, making him a hot commodity on the NBA trade market. Cardinal has two years left, while Miller is the outside shooter the team has been craving for years.

Miller averaged 16.7 points and 6.7 rebounds a game and, most attractive the Wolves, shot 43 percent on 3-pointers last season.

Love set UCLA freshman records for scoring and rebounding on his way to being named conference player of the year in his only season with the Bruins. The Timberwolves were impressed by his passing, shooting range and knack for coming up with rebounds in traffic.

In Walker and Buckner, the Grizzlies get two veterans whose best days are long behind them and a guard/forward in Jaric that never fulfilled the promise McHale had for him when he traded Sam Cassell and a first-round draft choice for Jaric in 2005.

Memphis also traded the rights to Syracuse forward Donte Greene, the No. 28 pick, in exchange for the rights to Darrell Arthur, who was picked 27th and traded three times. New Orleans dealt his rights to Portland, which then traded him to Houston. The Rockets then traded his rights to Memphis early Friday morning.

Sharapova, Roddick upset at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Moments after Maria Sharapova walked off the court in defeat, her father stomped away from the stadium down a Wimbledon walkway, spitting out words in Russian as he gestured to a companion.

Upon climbing a stairway to the players' patio, Yuri Sharapov encountered the father of two other former Wimbledon champions, Richard Williams. They shook hands without a word, and Williams began to giggle at the seething Sharapov, who couldn't resist cracking a rare smile.

They belong to an exclusive club of dads who know what it's like to watch their little girl flop as the world watches. Sharapov endured the experience Thursday, when his daughter lost 6-2, 6-4 in the second round to Alla Kudryavtseva, a fellow Russian ranked 154th.

"There's only one winner in the tournament, and everybody else is disappointed," Sharapova said. "I'm one of them."

While Sharapova never really gave herself a chance, missed opportunities doomed Andy Roddick. The two-time Wimbledon runner-up went 0-for-8 converting break points, squandered three set points in the final set and lost to Janko Tipsarevic 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (4).

"Any chance I got, I pretty much just choked it," Roddick said. "It's like you want something so bad you almost squeeze too tight."

Other title contenders gave their parents more to cheer about. No. 2-ranked Rafael Nadal showed a rare flash of anger at a questionable call in the opening set but regained his composure to beat 19-year-old Ernests Gulbis 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (2), 6-3. Williams' daughter, Venus, seeking her fifth Wimbledon title, needed 26 points to win a single game but eventually shook stubborn Anne Keothavong of Britain, 7-5, 6-2.

AP

Russia's Alla Kudryavtseva, right, waves to the crowd after defeating Maria Sharapova, left, in their Women's Singles, second round match on the Number One Court at Wimbledon, Thursday, June 26, 2008.

Venus and sister Serena also won their second-round doubles match shortly after being named to the U.S. Olympic team.

But 1999 Wimbledon champion Lindsay Davenport withdrew before her second-round match because of a lingering knee injury. Davenport, back at Wimbledon for the first time in three years after becoming a mother, said she still expects to play in the Olympics.

American men went 0-for-3. The elimination of Roddick, Jesse Levine and Olympian James Blake left the United States with one player in the third round of gentlemen's singles: No. 102-ranked Bobby Reynolds.

U.S. fans might want to claim Kudryavtseva, who was born in Moscow but lives in Boca Raton, Fla. She sent Sharapova to her earliest exit at a Grand Slam tournament since 2003.

Adding insult to the result, Kudryavtseva trashed the tuxedo-style ensemble worn by Sharapova that had been the talk of the tournament.

"I don't like her outfit," Kudryavtseva said. "It's a little too much of everything. ... It was one of the motivations to beat her."

Spraying shots from the start, cover girl Sharapova disproved the adage that anybody looks good in a tux. The 2004 Wimbledon champion had eight double-faults, including three in one game, and wore the net out with her groundstrokes.

"I guess it wasn't my day," Sharapova said. "I was just pretty tentative."

And why was that?

"Not sure. Very good question. A question I'll be asking myself later today."

The second-ranked Sharapova won her third Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January but has experienced dismal defeats at two major events this month. She blew a big lead in a fourth-round loss to Dinara Safina at the French Open.

Kudryavtseva, the daughter of a world champion in Greco-Roman wrestling, has been ranked as high as 59th. She came within two points of upsetting Venus Williams in the first round last year.

"I was so close to winning, and then just played a little too passive in the end," Kudryavtseva said. "So today I was like, `There's no way I'm going to do the same mistake again,' so I went for my shots."

In the final game, Sharapova shanked two shots, then double-faulted to reach match point. Kudryavtseva fulfilled her pledge to stay aggressive, smacking a forehand winner for the victory, then hopped backward toward the net with glee.

"She beat me, and it probably made her tournament," Sharapova said.

Matt Garza pitches 1-hitter to leads Rays over Marlins

MIAMI (AP)—Matt Garza pitched a one-hitter, allowing only Hanley Ramirez's home run leading off the seventh inning, and the Tampa Bay Rays defeated the Florida Marlins 6-1 Thursday to complete a three-game sweep.

Garza (6-4) struck out 10 and walked one in his first complete game in 38 major league starts. He faced the minimum 18 batters through six innings on a humid afternoon in Miami, where weekday day games are unusual.

Evan Longoria homered and had three hits for the Rays, who swept their Sunshine State rival for just the second time.

Athletics 5, Phillies 0

At Oakland, California, Rich Harden struck out a career-high 11, allowing two hits in eight innings to lead the Athletics over Philadelphia.

Harden (5-0) retired his first 14 batters before Shane Victorino singled cleanly into center field. Victorino got Philadelphia's other hit off Harden, an infield single with one out in the eighth.

Alan Embree completed the three-hitter, allowing Pat Burrell's two-out triple before retiring Ryan Howard on a groundout.

Tigers 3, Cardinals 2, 10 innings

At Detroit, Clete Thomas drew a bases-loaded walk in the 10th inning to give Detroit a win over St. Louis, spoiling Albert Pujols' return for the Cardinals.

St. Louis reliever Mike Parisi (0-4) gave up a leadoff single to Curtis Granderson and intentionally walked Carlos Guillen and Miguel Cabrera before Thomas drew his second run-scoring walk of the day.

Pujols, in his first game back from the disabled list, hit an RBI single in the ninth to give the Cardinals the lead. But Gary Sheffield, who returned Tuesday from the disabled list, answered with a solo homer for Detroit in the bottom of the inning.

Orioles 11, Cubs 4

At Chicago, Aubrey Huff had four hits and two RBIs, Jay Payton drove in three runs and Baltimore beat the Cubs to become the second team to win a series at Wrigley Field this season.

Brian Roberts had two hits to extend his hitting streak to 13 games as Baltimore roughed up Jason Marquis (6-4), who hadn't lost in his previous seven starts.

Marquis gave up seven runs and seven hits in four innings for Chicago, which had won seven straight series at Wrigley.

White Sox 2, Dodgers 0

At Los Angeles, John Danks pitched six sharp innings and combined with four relievers for a five-hitter, leading the White Sox over the Dodgers.

Danks (5-4) won for the first time since May 29 after getting a no-decision in each of his previous four starts. The 23-year-old left-hander allowed four hits and issued a season-high four walks as the White Sox won the rubber game of the interleague series.

Bobby Jenks pitched a perfect ninth inning for his 17th save in 20 attempts.

Twins 4, Padres 3

At San Diego, Justin Morneau went 3-for-4 with a homer and three RBIs, and Minnesota beat San Diego to win its ninth straight game, all against the National League.

The Twins swept the Washington Nationals, Arizona Diamondbacks and now the Padres. Prior to that, they won two of three against Milwaukee. Minnesota is 12-3 overall against the NL this season going into their final interleague series at home this weekend against the Brewers.

Twins starter Scott Baker (4-2) got his first big league hit and scored his first run while holding the Padres to three runs and six hits in six innings. Joe Nathan pitched a perfect ninth for his 21st save in 23 chances.

Blue Jays 7, Reds 1

At Toronto, Scott Rolen hit a two-run homer off Edinson Volquez, Jesse Litsch pitched eight sharp innings and Toronto beat Cincinnati.

Volquez (10-3) entered with a major league-best 1.71 ERA but was tagged for a season-high seven runs, five earned, and six hits in 4 1-3 innings, his shortest start of the season. Volquez's ERA rose to 2.08.

Rolen connected in the second inning for his sixth homer of the season and third in four games. His RBI double in the fifth made it 7-1.

Astros 7, Rangers 2

At Houston, Wandy Rodriguez pitched eight solid innings and tied a career high with nine strikeouts, leading Houston past Texas.

Hunter Pence had a bases-clearing triple to help the Astros to a 2-1 series win over their state rivals, Houston's second straight series win after taking two of three from Tampa Bay over the weekend.

Rodriguez (3-3) didn't allow a hit until a double by Kevin Millwood with one out in the third. He retired the next nine batters before Ian Kinsler singled with one out in the sixth.

Indians 4, Giants 1

At Cleveland, Cliff Lee struck out a career-high 11 over eight innings to help Cleveland down San Francisco and avoid a three-game sweep.

Jamey Carroll and Jhonny Peralta drove in two runs apiece to support Lee (11-1), who tied Arizona's Brandon Webb and Joe Saunders of the Los Angeles Angels for the major league lead in wins. Matt Cain (4-6) was the loser.

Pavin, Van Pelt, Hart share lead at Buick Open

GRAND BLANC, Mich. (AP)—Rocco Mediate was simply exhausted. Physically and mentally. After pushing Tiger Woods for five-plus rounds at the U.S. Open and doing countless interviews, Mediate didn't have much left Thursday in the first round of the Buick Open.

"I'm about to faint," Mediate said after signing for a 1-under 71 in the scoring trailer.

Mediate got a boost of energy moments later when he walked into the locker room.

BUICK OPEN

Tom Lehman was the first of a few players to greet him with a hug or handshake and kind words about his showing in U.S. Open. Then, Mediate opened his locker and read the latest batch of handwritten notes from PGA Tour peers.

"This whole experience has been unbelievable," he said.

Mediate's first tournament since falling just short of winning his first major might not last long.

He likely will have to improve upon his opening round on Friday just to make the cut at Warwick Hills, where players who don't reach about 3 under after two days usually go home.

Corey Pavin, Bo Van Pelt and Dudley Hart shared the opening-round lead at 8-under 64, a shot ahead of Briny Baird and Daniel Chopra.

Woody Austin was in a group at 66. Bubba Watson was in a pack another stroke back with Charles Warren, who had six straight birdies to tie the longest birdie-eagle streak this year on the PGA Tour.

Jim Furyk was among a big group four shots behind the leaders.

Whelan confident in half marathon

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Brendan Whelan of Australia is confident that he will win the half marathon event of the 2008 Oceania Championships which starts bright and early this morning along Beach Road.

The event's defending champion, Whelan predicted that he will win the 13.1-mile run following his gold-medal winning performance Thursday in the men's 5000m.

"If I give a prediction, I will win it. If there will be a winner, it will be me. It's also nice that I have a day rest before the half marathon," he said.

Whelan said the course will not be a problem because he ran parts of it during his record-setting triumph in last weekend's 15th Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run.

"The course will be in the same area in Beach Road I ran during the DFS. So it's nice and flat. It should be OK. The humidity would be a problem but I heard that they will be starting it early. The earlier the better."

Asked who among his eight competitors will challenge him in the race, Whelan said the runners from French Polynesia are always competitive.

"I think the guys from Tahiti will give me the toughest challenge. They've got good seed times. One actually has a better seed time than me. So will see. I'm defending in that so I want to try and win it again."

The Tahitian runner Whelan is referring to is 34-year-old Tutea Degage who has a seed time of 73.35 as against the Aussie's 74 flat.

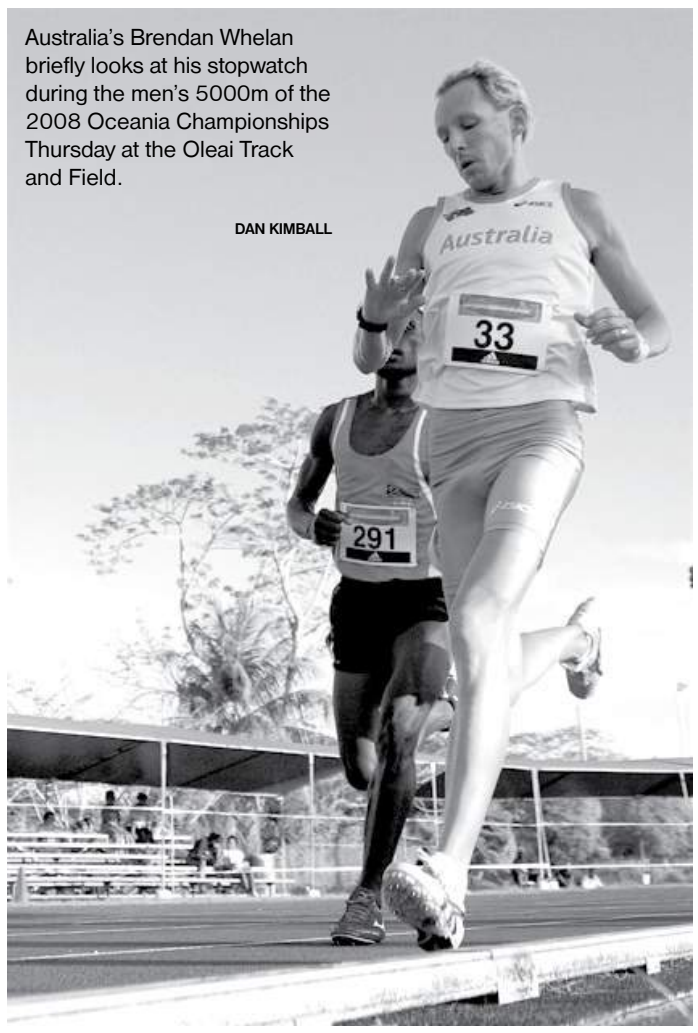
Other competitors in the half marathon are Australia's Tony Gordon, Tahiti's Teiva Izal, NMI's Chang Jang, Tamio Nishikito, Louie Tenorio, and Roland Villafria, and Papua New Guinea's Skene Kiage.

Saipan's heat and humidity forced Whelan to change the way he raced the 5000m and he expects the same adjustments in the half marathon. He said he is already thinking about increasing his intake of water for the event and wants to change his diet a bit as well prior to the race.

"I would probably have six litters of water the day before. I've also been living on bananas so I'll try to get something more substantial to eat before the half marathon."

On a lighter note, Whelan said he is enjoying his stay in the capital of the Northern Marianas and is already planning a return trip under more relaxing circumstances.

" I absolutely love Saipan. I've actually done all the tourist things. I already seen Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, and the Grotto. I hope to come back for a holiday on my way from Japan."



Australia's Brendan Whelan briefly looks at his stopwatch during the men's 5000m of the 2008 Oceania Championships Thursday at the Oleai Track and Field.

DAN KIMBALL

WONENBERG

From Page 28

Wonenberg then secured the hosts' first-ever gold medal finish in the biennial competition by winning the 800m with a lightning-fast time of 2:39.80. Rangamar was second with her 3:00.36, while Taui'uvea settled for third, clocking in at 3:06.51.

Interviewed by the *Saipan Tribune* shortly after the announcement of her victory in the heptathlon, the daughter of Barry and Maggie Wonenberg said she was not expecting to win the event, as she only started training seriously a month or so ago.

"I only started on hurdles last month and I've been training for javelin not so long and I haven't been doing middle distance and been only doing sprints and some jump work but I'm surprised… My coaches Eli [Rangamar], Robin [Sapong], Ron [Olopai], and Kara really helped me a lot," she said.

For his part, CNMI National Athletics coach Elias Rangamar congratulated Wonenberg for her feat and didn't waste time heaping praises to her ward.

"I guess hat's off to Jacque and Lia for working together. I don't know I'm really speechless still. Our first gold medal in over 12 years of competing in the Oceania Championships. It's amazing we've been coming to this event for years and we're lucky to win one here on Saipan, on home soil.

"Man, I'm ecstatic. She's proven why she's athlete of the year [for NMASA]. Right now, I don't know what else to say probably later on I could say more things," he said, adding that Wonenberg won the gold despite her on-and-off training because of canoeing and her school commitments.

On Thursday, Wonenberg topped the 200m sprint (28.03), the 100m hurdles (16.83), and the shot put (8.92m), but lost by far to Taui'uvea in the high jump (1.52m to 1.31m).

Aside from the heptahlon gold, Wonenberg also added a bronze by finishing third in the under-18 long jump with a leap of 4.79. The event was won by Olivia Blundell of New Zealand (5.08m), followed by Cook Islands' Patricia Taea (5.02m).

Several local athletes, meanwhile, also struck gold for the hosts.

Trevor Ogumoro, for instance, came in second in the men's under-18 octathlon with 3,256 points. Lars Fa'apoi won the gold with 4,288 points, while third place went to Guam's Aldrin Zapanta who finished with 2,891 points.

Ogumoro also took the bronze in the under-18 long jump by jumping 1.60m. First and second were athletes from New Zealand. Nick Gerard won the gold with his 1.90m with Michael Cochrane the silver with his 1.65m.

Jenequa Benavente, meanwhile, won her second and third medals of the Championships when she took home the silver in the under-18 women's discus with her throw of 33.67. She was second to Tasele Satupai of Samoa (45.08m) and ahead of Perle Buard of Tahiti (32.19m).

She also salvaged a bronze in the women's under-18 hammer. Satupai won the gold with her 34.58, followed by Buard (31.57m) and Benavente took the bronze with her 27.57m throw.

Veteran Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel also gave the CNMI another silver by finishing second to Norfolk Islands' Tom Rogers in the men's 3000m steeplechase. Rogers won the gold with his time of 12:18.36 with Kabiriel not that far behind with his 12:20.07.

With medal contributions from Wonenberg and company, the CNMI currently sits in eighth place in the medal standings with a haul of one gold, five silver, and seven bronze medals.

NZ

From Page 28

Third place in the ranking is Samoa with eight gold, two silver, and one bronze. Fiji (7 gold, 5 silver, 3 bronze) and Papua New Guinea (4 gold, 4 silver, and 2 bronze) complete the Top 5.

Other gold medal winners yesterday were Australia's Thomas McGuire in the men's hammer (46.00m), Alexis Valdenaire of Tahiti in the under-18 hammer throw (50.24m), Tasele Satupai of Samoa in the under-18 hammer (34.58m), and Kelly Humpries of Australia in the women's hammer throw (45.57m) in the field events.

Winning gold in the track events were Salome Dell of PNG in the 400m sprint (55.45) and 800m (2:10.92), Joshua Ahwong of Australia in the men's 400m sprint (48.26), Paulini Korowaqa of Fiji in the under-18 women's 200m sprint (25.74), Dean Searles of Australia in the men's under-18 800m (1:57.19), Aunese Curreen of Samoa in the men's 800m (1:51.16),

Winning in the hurdles were Milika Tuivanuavou of Fiji in the women's 100m (16.22), Daniel McLean of Australia in the under-18 men's 110m, and Toriki Urarii of Tahiti in the men's 110m (15.11).

Tim Rogers of Norfolk Island, meanwhile, won gold in the steeplechase (12:18.36). Makalesi Tumalevu of Fiji won the women's long jump (5.70m), while Samoa's Monique Lafaialii took the gold in the women's triple jump (10.20m).

In the mixed distance relay, Australia won the under-18 mixed race in a time of 1:42.14, while Fiji won the mixed relay by clocking in at 1:38.29.

GUAMANIANS

From Page 28

errors," he said.

Cruz said to prepare for the "Road to the World Series," the Junior All-Stars have been practicing everyday in their home field in Guam. In Capital Hill, Cruz's wards were seen at batting practice, which he says consists of 300 cuts per day for each player.

"Like every team that comes up to this tournament, we also want to win. We're no different. We want to win because it will be a good thing for the boys," he said.

While his 14-man roster has no returnees from the Junior All-Stars in 2007, Cruz said he has two veterans of the Major All-Star team that went to Williamsport, Pennsylvania last year.

Asked what advise he will give his team before it starts its campaign in the Regionals, Cruz said he will just tell his boys not to take other teams lightly.

"We have to face them and just play a level higher. We're ready. We have a pretty good chance. I told my boys just to play the game and don't pay attention on what happens outside. Just keep your mind in the game."

He said like Guam's Junior All-Stars, the U.S. territory's entries in the Big League and Senior League are also "pretty strong teams" and can also advance to the World Series.

Making up the Guam Junior All-Stars are Nathan Cruz, Zacharias Bukikosa, Brent Blau, Jonovan Dela Cruz, Philbert Flores, Jermaine Tenorio, Byron Quitugua, Joe Duenas, Florencio Binuya, Scott Duenas, Ivan Cruz, Derek Fernandez, Frank Choi, and Carl Quintanilla. Cruz will be assisted in the dugout by coaches Carlos Quintanilla and Phil Flores.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	49	32	.605	_
Tampa Bay	47	31	.603	1/2
New York	42	36	.538	5 1/2
Baltimore	40	37	.519	7
Toronto	38	42	.475	10 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	43	35	.551	_
Minnesota	43	36	.544	1/2
Detroit	38	40	.487	5
Cleveland	36	43	.456	7 1/2
Kansas City	36	43	.456	7 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	48	31	.608	_
Oakland	43	35	.551	4 1/2
Texas	40	40	.500	8 1/2
Seattle	28	50	.359	19 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	43	37	.538	_
Florida	40	38	.513	2
New York	38	39	.494	3 1/2
Atlanta	39	41	.488	4
Washington	31	49	.388	12

Central Division

Chicago	49	30	.620	_
St. Louis	45	35	.563	4 1/2
Milwaukee	43	35	.551	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	37	41	.474	11 1/2
Houston	37	42	.468	12
Cincinnati	36	44	.450	13 1/2

West Division

Arizona	40	39	.506	_
Los Angeles	36	42	.462	3 1/2
San Francisco	34	45	.430	6
Colorado	32	47	.405	8
San Diego	32	48	.400	8 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Tampa Bay 6, Florida 1
Detroit 3, St. Louis 2, 10 innings
Baltimore 11, Chicago Cubs 4
Chicago White Sox 2, L.A. Dodgers 0
Minnesota 4, San Diego 3
Oakland 5, Philadelphia 0
N.Y. Yankees at Pittsburgh, ppd., rain
Cleveland 4, San Francisco 1
Toronto 7, Cincinnati 1
Houston 7, Texas 2

BUICK OPEN SCORES

GRAND BLANC, Michigan (AP)–Scores from Thursday's first round of the $5 million Buick Open on the 7,127-yard, par-72 (36-36) Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club:

FIRST ROUND (Partial)

Corey Pavin	32-32	64
Bo Van Pelt	32-32	64
Dudley Hart	33-31	64
Briny Baird	34-31	65
Daniel Chopra	32-33	65
Shigeki Maruyama	31-35	66
Woody Austin	34-32	66
Kenneth Ferrie	32-34	66
Jon Mills	34-32	66
Charles Warren	36-31	67
Lee Janzen	36-31	67
Kevin Na	34-33	67
Johnson Wagner	35-32	67
Tom Byrum	33-34	67
Bubba Watson	37-30	67
Stephen Leaney	32-35	67
Tag Ridings	34-33	67
Brad Elder	33-34	67
Ben Crane	34-34	68
Dustin Johnson	33-35	68
Mathew Goggin	35-33	68
Scott Verplank	35-33	68
Jim Furyk	34-34	68

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

2008 OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEDAL STANDINGS

(Official results as of 7:30pm, June 27)

Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
New Zealand	12	7	4	23
Australia	9	9	1	19
Samoa	8	2	1	11
Fiji	7	5	3	15
Papua New Guinea	4	4	2	10
Guam	3	4	7	14
Tahiti	3	4	4	11
CNMI	1	5	7	13
Tonga	1	3	3	7
Solomon Islands	1	2	2	5
New Caledonia	1	1	1	3
Kiribati	1	1	0	2
Norfolk Islands	1	0	1	2
Cook Islands	0	2	4	6
Vanuatu	0	0	1	1
Nauru	0	0	1	1
RMI	0	0	0	0
A. Samoa	0	0	0	0
Palau	0	0	0	0
FSM	0	0	0	0

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 28 JUNE (MORNING SESSION)

5:30am	Women's Half Marathon Open	Finals
5:30am	Men's Half Marathon Open	Finals

SATURDAY 28 JUNE (AFTERNOON SESSION)

12:15pm	Women's Hammer U 18	Finals
1pm	Women's 200m Sprint Open	Heats
1pm	Men's Long Jump U 18	Finals
1:20pm	Men's 200m Sprint Open	Heats
1:30pm	Men's Shot Put U 18	Finals
1:30pm	Men's Discus Open	Finals
1:45pm	Women's 400m Hurdles Open	Finals
1:50pm	Men's Triple Jump Open	Finals
2:00pm	Men's 400m Hurdles Open	Finals
2:15pm	Women's 100m Sprint U 18	Heats
2:30pm	Men's 100m Sprint U 18	Heats
2:45pm	Women's Discus Open	Finals
2:50pm	Women's 200m Sprint Open	Finals
3:00pm	Women's Triple Jump U 18	Finals
3:00pm	Men's 200m Sprint Open	Finals
3:10pm	Women's 400m Sprint U 18	Finals
3:20pm	Men's 400m Sprint U 18	Finals
3:30pm	Women's High Jump Open	Finals
3:30pm	Women's 1500m Run U 18	Finals
3:40pm	Men's 1500m Run U 18	Finals
3:50pm	Women's 1500m Run Open	Finals
4:00pm	Men's Javelin U 18	Finals
4:00pm	Men's 1500m Run Open	Finals
4:15pm	Women's 100m Sprint U 18	Finals
4:25pm	Men's 100m Sprint U 18	Finals
4:45pm	Women's 4x100m Relay Open	Finals
4:55pm	Men's 4x100m Relay Open	Finals

2008 Oceania Championships

Far left, Brendan Whelan of Australia sets the pace in the men's open 5000m of the 2008 Oceania Championships Thursday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Left, Men's 5000m gold medalist Brendan Whelan of Australia poses with silver medalist Tupuhoe Tahi of Tahiti, left, and Teiva Izal of Tahiti.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Papua New Guinea's Salome Del, center, received her gold medal by winning the women's 3-kilometer Cross Country of the 2008 Oceania Championships last Thursday during the medal ceremony at the Oleai Track and Field. On her right is silver medalist Marie Benito of Guam and to her left is bronze medalist Nicole Layson also of Guam.

DAN KIMBALL

Cook Islands' Maki Sari Lockington finished third in the javelin with her 32.70m.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

From left, Brendan Peeters of Australia, Rabangaki Nawai of Kiribati, and Piula Veleika of Tonga in action in the 100m sprint of men's open octathlon Thursday in the 2008 Oceania Championships at the Oleai Track and Field.

DAN KIMBALL

Milika Tuivanuavou of Fiji won the women's javelin with a throw of 39.36m.

DAN KIMBALL

Leon Mengloi of Palau and Rabangaki Nawai of Kiribati shake hands after competing in the 100m of men's open octathlon.

DAN KIMBALL

Skene Kiaga (228) of PNG briefly led Brendan Whelan of Australia in the men's 5000m.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Samoa's Tasele Iva Satupai, center, won the gold medal in the under-18 women's discus, while Australia's Iesha Beer, left, took the silver and the CNMI's Jenequa Benavente the bronze.

DAN KIMBALL

Nicole Layson of Guam finished first in the women's 5000m after crossing the finish line in 21:11.76.

Whelan confident in half marathon

Brendan Whelan of Australia is confident that he will win the half marathon event of the 2008 Oceania Championships which starts bright and early this morning along Beach Road.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rose, Beasley, Mayo go 1-2-3 in NBA draft

Derrick Rose is going home, and a record crowd of freshmen are following him to the NBA.

24

Wonenberg wins NMI's first gold

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The CNMI won its first-ever gold medal in the area championships when Jacque Wonenberg topped the under-18 women's heptathlon of the 2008 Oceania Championships yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Trailing by points into the final day of the seven-event competition, the 16-year-old Marianas High School student passed erstwhile leader Unaloto Taui'uvea of Tonga by coming in first in two of the final three events and finishing second on the other.

Wonenberg first won the long jump by leaping 4.80m, followed by Taui'uvea's 4.48, and teammate Li'amwar Rangamar's 3.94m.

Rangamar then surprised her much bigger and older competitors when she took the javelin with a throw of 28.63. Wonenberg finished second with her 27.03m, while Taui'uvea was third with her 26.23.

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MARK RABAGO

Left, women's under-18 heptathlon gold medalist Jacque Wonenberg, center, poses with second place Unaloto Taui'uvea of Tonga and teammate Li'amwar Rangamar during the 2008 Oceania Championships medal presentation yesterday at the Oleai Track and Field. Right, Trevor Ogumoro (198) in action in the 1000m of the men's under-18 octathlon.

NZ running away with overall championship

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

New Zealand continues to lead the medal standings in the 2008 Oceania Championships with seven more gold medals hauled in by its amazing under-18 team yesterday at the Oleai Track and Field.

With only one day left in the biennial event, the Kiwis have amassed 12 gold, seven silver, and four bronze for a total of 23 medals.

Kelsey Berryman led New Zealand's charge by winning both the women's 400m and 100m hurdles. The 16-year-old ran the 400m hurdles in 67.88 followed by Australia's Emily Keehn with her 74.21.

Berryman also won the 100m hurdles by beating teammate Olivia Blundell with a time of 14.88. Blundell was second with her 15.03 followed by Tonga's Vasi Feke (15.35).

Blundell won a gold medal of her own when she topped the women's long jump with a leap of 5.08m, followed by Cook Islands' Patricia Taea and the CNMI's Jacque Wonenberg.

Daniel Fake's gold medal, meanwhile, was the real deal when he won the men's triple jump with leap of 13.36m. He was followed by Linc Port of Australia (13.29m) and fellow Kiwi John Kendall (13.06m).

Nick Gerard, Alex Jordan, and Emily Kinsler gave the New Zealanders their final three gold medals of the day.

Gerard one his in the men's high jump (1.90m) with teammate Michael Cochrane taking second (1.65m) and CNMI's Trevor Ogumoro taking third (1.60m).

Jordan, for his part, won the men's 200m sprint with a time of 21.93, followed by the 22.55 of Australia's Mason Holm and the 22.97 of Papua New Guinea's Joe Matmat.

Kinsler took the tape in the women's 800m with her time of 2:19.31, followed by the 2:39.49 of Nori Tubas of Vanuatu and the 2:43.57 of Guam's Kimberley Layson.

Australia, meanwhile, is running second in the medal standings with nine gold, nine silver, and one bronze to its credit.

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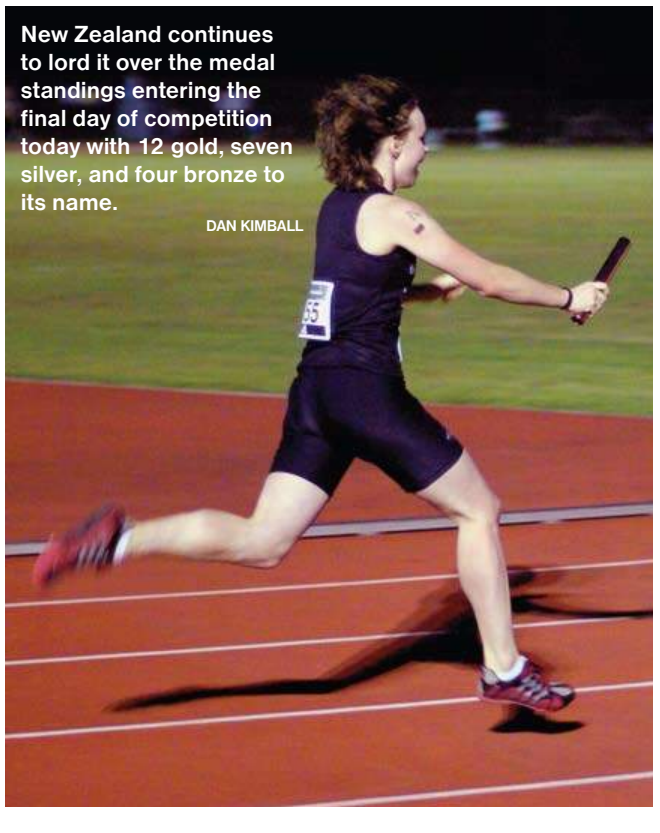

New Zealand continues to lord it over the medal standings entering the final day of competition today with 12 gold, seven silver, and four bronze to its name.

DAN KIMBALL

Guamanians ready for Regionals

MARK RABAGO

The Guam Junior All-Star Team to the 2008 Asia-Pacific Little League Tournament pose during a lull in their practice session yesterday at the Capital Hill Field.

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Guam Junior All-Star manager William Cruz said that the Junior division of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Little League Tournament is the toughest division to win this year.

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* while his all-stars were conducting batting practice yesterday afternoon at the Capital Hill Field, Cruz said unlike the Seniors and Big League, the 13-14 age group has five teams all hoping to advance to the Regionals.

Aside from his team, defending champion Philippines, powerhouse the CNMI, Hong Kong, and Indonesia are also vying for a spot to the 2008 Junior World Series in Taylor, Michigan come September.

Cruz said he only has a few tenets in managing a baseball team but foremost of them is to play every game as if it was your last—regardless of the opponent.

"Any team that we come up against we consider them tough. We don't take anybody lightly. I just tell my kids to play a level higher than what we have now and just communicate well and have a lot of disciple. Don't let up, don't give up, fight it from inning to inning."

The Guam Junior All-Stars manager is also a stickler when it comes to instilling discipline among his players.

"It's just a matter of discipline. Like what I always instill in these kids, if we don't have discipline in hitting, we don't have discipline in fielding then we will start committing a lot of

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